BUSINESS / B2-1
Have heartwarming images and other marketing lessons from Obama's win

BUSINESS / B1
ADB sees no recession in RP in '09

NEWS / A2
$389M 'hot money' flows out of RP in October

WORLD / A29
Congo rebels block road with corpses of gov't soldiers

AT A GLANCE

Why (mis)use of P728-M fertilizer fund is a scam

THE P728-MILLION FERTILIZER FUND allegedly diverted to bankroll President Macapagal-Arroyo's 2004 election campaign was said to be a scam or a "grand agricultural theft" due to several reasons pointed out in 2005 by Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., then chair of the Senate agriculture committee, and by the Commission on Audit (COA).

NO PUBLIC BIDDING. Although it is the policy of the government to procure goods and services generally through public bidding, which shall be transparent, no public bidding was conducted

PHOTO REQUIRED A22

Man in hot seat keeps cool as tempers flare

By Christine O. Avendaño

THE SENATORS OCCASIONALLY lost their cool, but the man in the hot seat did not.

A calm Jocelyn "Joc-joc" Bolante pro-

MAIN A11

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Friday, November 14, 2008 ★★ 18 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 342 P18 online: www.inquirer.net

Bolante 'unbelievable'

Lawmakers admit: We got something, not fertilizer

By Leila B. Salaverria and Inquirer Bureaus

THE LAWMAKERS WHO FORmer Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-joc" Bolante said had sought funds from his department yesterday confirmed they got something, but not aluminum from the fertilizer fund.

At the same time, officials also were listed by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) as having received sums of P1 million to P5 million from the P728-million fertilizer fund denied getting the money. Others acknowledged that they received the money.

Bolante, during his much-awaited Senate testimony, identified Parañaque Rep. Eduardo Zubiri, former Nervous Rep. Federico Sandoval and Quezon City Rep. Nanette Daza as the

LAWMAKERS A10

Zubiri bangs fist: I'm no grateful stooge of Palace

By Michael Lim Ubac

SEN. JUAN MIGUEL ZUBIRI DEnied he's no "grateful stooge" of Malacañang.

At the start of the hearing called by the Senate blue ribbon committee yesterday the senator from Bukidnon inhibited himself from the inquiry into the fertilizer fund scam.

In a "privileged motion," which is granted precedence over ordinary business because

ZUBIRI A11

ARRGGHH! Ever administration ally Sen. Miriam can't believe her ears, saying Bolante was "defending the indefensible," and that his testimony almost gave her a heart attack. EDWIN BACASMAS

HAIR ROXAS IS HOT Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano (center) in blue ribbon chair is cool; Sen. Migz Zubiri (right) gets roast, and Roxas sums up what the day's testimony by its lone witness was all about: "A string of lies."

WHERE DID THE MONEY GO? At the Senate hearing, ex-Agriculture Undersecretary Joc-joc Bolante admits he approved, allocated and facilitated the release of the P728-million fertilizer fund in 2004, but incredibly insists little else particularly if it was diverted to Ms Arroyo's presidential campaign kitty.

Joc-joc testifies GMA not involved

By Michael Lim Ubac and Christine O. Avendaño

"UNBELIEVABLE." THAT in one word summed up the testimony of the much-awaited Jocelyn "Joc-joc" Bolante yesterday who appeared at the Senate with a battery of lawyers.

The main suspected of orchestrating the diversion of the P728-million fertilizer fund to President Macapagal-Arroyo's election campaign in 2004 finally faced the Senate blue ribbon committee after nearly three years of eluding its summonses for him. But Senate said the hearing's lone witness issued statements and denials that the nation "cannot stomach."

Following Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano's opening statement, Bolante asked the most crucial question: "Kailan ninyo nalaman ni *President Arroyo yung pagpasok* nung pondo sa iyo para sa lahyang *eleksyon* (When did President Arroyo approve the use of this fund for her election campaign)?"

Bolante was hardly flustered. He quickly replied: "President Arroyo was not involved in this particular project of the Department of Agriculture. The implementation of the P720-million farm input-farm implement pro-

BOLANTE A10

30 most developed nations in recession

PARIS—THE WORLD'S LEADing industrialized nations have slid into recession and will shrink further in 2009, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) announced yesterday.

The Paris-based grouping of the world's 30 most developed countries said the US economy shrank 0.3 percent in the third quarter this year and would contract a whopping 2.8 percent in the fourth. Two consecutive quarters of negative growth would put the world's biggest economy in recession.

Japan—the world's second largest economy—will see negative growth in the final two quarters of 2008 before returning to positive territory in the first quarter 2009, while the eurozone economy will not begin to grow again until the third quarter of 2009, according to the OECD.

"The OECD area now appears to have entered into a recession," the leading international economic organization said in a one-page statement ahead of the

10 MOST A12

FORGING A CULTURE OF PEACE Speaking at the UN General Assembly Hall in New York, President Arroyo rallies world leaders to adopt the Philippine policy of interfaith and intercultural dialogue to foster an "alliance among civilizations." MALACAÑANG PHOTO

GMA won't resume talks until rogue MILF rebs under control

By TJ Burgonio

NEW YORK—PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo on Wednesday ruled out the resumption of peace talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) until "responsible elements" had regained control of the rebel organization.

Speaking at the United Nations General Assembly on interfaith dialogue, Mr Arroyo told world leaders that the Philippines remained "fully committed" to the peace process.

"However, before we can actively and effectively reactivate the peace process again in earnest, we must first bring sta-

bility back to the island, restore order and be able to trust that responsible elements of the MILF have regained control," she said.

On her return to Manila early today following her four-day trip to the United Nations, Mr Arroyo will proceed to Lanao del Norte to visit Munungan town, a known bailiwick of Abdulla Macapaar, one of the MILF's rebel front commanders.

Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, secretary general of the 56-member Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), urged the two sides to "save the peace process from sliding into further deterioration and resume

GMA WON'T A12

President asks Saudi prince to stay execution of 3 Filipinos in Jeddah

NEW YORK—PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo met on Wednesday with Saudi Crown Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz al-Saud in a bid to stay the execution of three Filipinos convicted of killing other Filipinos in Jeddah.

The President met with Sultan on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly on interfaith dialogue in New York and relayed her wish of clemency for Rolando Gonzales and his brother Edison and Edgardo Arello.

"She went for it. She was there to see to it that the Filipinos convicted will hopefully get some kind of reprieve or some lighter penalties," Press Secretary Jesse Dakota told reporters.

The crown prince vowed to look into this, he added.

PRESIDENT A12

BPO: RP one bright light in sea of global gloom

BUSINESS OUTSOURCING MAY NOT be the most glamorous industry in the world but it is one of the few bright lights amid the doom and gloom of the global financial crisis.

The two countries which have benefited the most from outsourcing—India and the Philippines—expect to see some initial pain from the financial turmoil but the industry is confident it will ride out the storm.

In the Philippines, the business process outsourcing (BPO) industry expects growth this year of between 33 and 40 percent on revenues of around $7 billion.

Rich Santos, the Philippine country chair for global property services company CB Richard Ellis, said the

BPO-RP ONE A6

RP RANKS second to India in outsourcing biz. AP

WEATHER FORECAST

TODAY Mostly cloudy with occasional rains over Luzon and Visayas due to the northeast monsoon. Cloudy skies with isolated rains over Mindanao due to the localized thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Mostly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Mostly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Mostly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rain
Kalibo	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Mostly Cloudy
Puerto Princesa	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Mostly Cloudy
Virac	Partly Cloudy	Cotabato	Mostly Cloudy
Catarman	Partly Cloudy	Tagbilaran	Mostly Cloudy

Source: Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa)

Second FRONTPAGE

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KP3 28 7 11 20 (6PM Draw) 7 1 9 (9PM Draw)

SUPERLOTTO 6/49 10 20 22 23 34 41

P65,343,603.60

$390M 'hot money' fled RP in Oct.

By Dona C. Dumlao

THE US-CENTERED GLOBAL financial crisis cost the Philippines $390 million in foreign "hot money" outflows in October, the largest foreign capital flight seen this year, as offshore investors worried about the worst credit crunch to hit the West in 80 years.

The capital flight in October brought the 10-month net outflow of foreign portfolio investments to $911.66 million, a sharp reversal of the $1.07 billion in net inflows in the same period last year, the central bank reported yesterday.

"Risk aversion further intensified from the global financial crisis and slowdown in the US and other major economies. This development has resulted in the withdrawal of investments out of emerging markets for investment in the US, primarily in Treasury securities," said Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr.

Foreign portfolio investments, or money that offshore investors place in local stocks, bonds, money market instruments like Treasury bills and bank deposits, are referred to as "hot money" because of their volatile nature.

For the next year, the first 10 months of 2008 has been characterized by investor risk aversion arising from heightened worries about the state of the global economy following the US subprime mortgage crisis and the meltdown in major financial markets.

Gross capital outflows for the 10-month period totaled $8.3 billion, outpacing total inflows of $7.4 billion. These came from withdrawals of foreign investments from listed shares (39 percent of total outflows), government securities (23 percent) and money market instruments and peso bank deposits (a combined 30 percent).

The October "hot money" flight further widened the net outflows of September when the country saw its worst foreign capital flight since the US financial crisis erupted last year, with $512.2 million worth of net foreign portfolio investments fleeing to or of the Philippines.

The collapse in September of the investment bank Lehman Brothers, the fire sale of the equally storied Merrill Lynch and near-bankruptcy of insurance giant American International Group (AIG) brought global risk aversion to new heights.

Investor risk aversion, which started with the subprime mortgage crisis in the US, deepened because of the surge in commodity prices and concerns over the impact of the US financial crisis on other markets.

The capital flight in September accounted for net inflows recorded in the previous two months when the sharp decline in global oil prices initially revived appetite for investments.

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Bishops in emergency meet

By Dona Z. Pazolingan

BISHOPS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH in the country were scheduled to convene today in a second emergency meeting this year to discuss the call of Sen Aquino youths to "prepare for a people's revolution soon."

The Pope Pius XII Catholic Center on United Nations Avenue, Manila, will be the site of today's meeting that was prompted by a statement issued two weeks ago by Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines; Archbishop Oscar Cruz, Bishop Socrates Villegas, Bishop Joel Baylon and Bishop Daniel Ang Anchoria.

Lagdameo, who had always been perceived as a political moderate, came out on Oct. 29 with a strongly worded statement roundly condemning corruption in the Arroyo administration as a "moral and social cancer" and calling for "radical reform."

He said "the time to prepare for a new government is now" and called for "constructive dialogue."

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The meeting was convened by Lo Cruz, Villegas, Baylon and Arena.

Their call evoked widespread reaction from other bishops, with perceived sympathizers of President Arroyo coming to her defense.

When asked later by reporters if he was calling for a revolt, Lagdameo turned vague and said he was not favoring any concerted action up to the public. He said the change they were espousing should come in 2010 with the presidential election.

And apparently anticipating the adverse reaction to his statement, Lagdameo had been careful to qualify that he was making it in the archbishop of Jaro [Iloilo] not as CBCP president.

The last time the bishops came together for a rare emergency meeting was in February after President Macapagal-Arroyo, her husband Jose Miguel Arroyo and then Commission of Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos were implicated in alleged corruption in the $329-million National Broadband Network deal with China's ZTE Corp.

Church admits failure in preventing ills in society

By Dona Z. Pazolingan

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE Philippines has admitted it has failed in its mission of reform and to prevent "worse evils in society."

Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines president Angel Lagdameo made the admission Wednesday to participants of the second Basic Ecclesial Communities National Congress in Cagayan de Oro City.

Lagdameo, also two archbishop, and the reforms laid out at the Second Vatican Council in 1965 and the Second Plenary Council of the Philippines in 1991 had not been implemented.

"Humbly we must admit... the whole Church of the Philippines, we have not been renewed enough," he told the nearly 400 congress participants chairing Mass.

"We have to make a confession of responsibility for some evils in our society," he said. "This acceptance is the beginning of renewal."

While he did not specify the "evils," the Catholic Church worldwide has been rocked by sexual abuse scandals involving priests.

In his homily, Lagdameo also referred to a statement made recently by Dumaguete Bishop Pedro Magpayo that Catholic Church leaders should share in the blame for the economy being tagged as one of the most corruptin the world.

Lagdameo said the Church's inaction would include the "evils in of October Ule and repentance."

"From where we sit and choose evil, we choose the good to faithfulness and with as many qualifications that mediocrity becomes our conceited status quo. We live in a time when we need to repent and reform," he said.

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De la Paz all set to testify

THE LAWYER OF RETIRED POLICE commander Eliseo de la Paz said there was no need for Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago to order a manhunt for his client as the latter would appear at the Senate tomorrow for the resumption of the congressional inquiry into the Moscow incident.

"It shows that "we are not evading them," lawyer Noel Malaya said his client would present himself to the Senate today.

"We will give dignity to their order of arrest even if we are maintaining that it is illegal," Malaya said.

De la Paz, who traveled to Russia in October with a Philippine National Police delegation for the 77th Interpol General Assembly in St. Petersburg, was found carrying 150,000 euros (about $197,000), in excess of the $1,000 limit, at the Moscow international airport.

It was later found that of the amount, 105,000 euros (US$ 9 million) had been illegally withdrawn from the PNP intelligence fund and 45,000 euros were from a friend who had asked De la Paz to purchase luxury watches in Moscow.

PNP Chief Director General Jesus Verzosa declined in last October that there was reasonable basis to file criminal charges against De la Paz in the release of the P8.9 million, which was part of the PNP confidential fund, was unauthorized.

De la Paz earlier refused to testify in contempt for ignoring the inquiry into the so-called "euro generals" case that Santiago, who heads the foreign relations committee, opened last month.

Out of town

The police official, who retired on Oct. 5 while he was still in Russia, has not been seen in public since Oct. 23, when he returned from Moscow, and Oct. 31 when he visited the 100ton of the Dasmariñas.

Malaya could not say what time he and De la Paz would be appearing at the Senate today.

De la Paz went out of town earlier this week to visit relatives, either in Batanes or La Union. Malaya said he was not sure whether his client was already back in Manila.

A subpoena for De la Paz's wife, Maria Fe, was also issued to Malaya when the lawyer went to the Senate sergeant-at-arms' office yesterday to serve notice that the former comptroller would appear at the Senate today.

Maria Fe, with three other wives of PNP officials, was with the delegation that went to Russia.

Malaya said it has not been decided if Maria Fe would also be making an appearance at the Senate today. Jaculyn B. Dy

Correction

IN THE NOW JOURNAL, the front-page banner story—"SK investors dare Bicol's 'easy-land grab'"—misspelled the surname of a lawyer. The lawyer's name is Stephen Arcaño—not Aranos.

Readers may send their requests for permission to journal errors in writing to the Reader Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Pre Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yakal Street, Makati City, fax No. 403-93-93/94; e-mail address inq.readers@gmail.com.ph.

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The Daily Gospel

Friday, November 14, 2008
32nd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 3 Jn 5-8
Gospel: Lk 17:26-37

Jesus said to his disciples, "As it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the day the Son of Man comes. They people ate and drank, they took husbands and wives. But on the day Noah entered the ark, the flood came and destroyed them all. Just as it was in the days of Lot: people ate and drank, they bought and sold, planted and built. But on the day Lot left Sodom, God made fire and sulfur rain down from heaven, which destroyed them all. So will it be on the day the Son of Man is revealed.

"On that day, if you are on the rooftop, don't go down inside to get your belongings; and if you happen to be in the fields, do not turn back. Remember Lot's wife. Whoever tries to save his life will lose himself, but whoever gives his life will be truly saved.

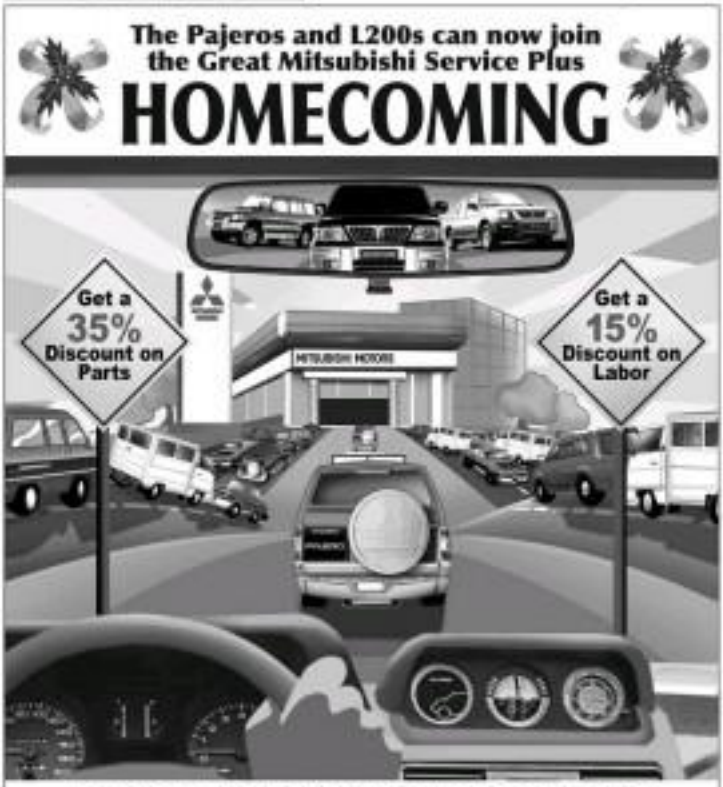
"I tell you, though two men are sharing the same bed, it may be that one will be taken and the other left. Though two women are grinding corn together, one may be taken and the other left."

They then asked Jesus, "Where, will this take place, Lord?" And he answered, "Where the body is, there too will the vultures gather."

Commentary:

The Lord paints a frightening picture of the day the Son of Man comes. The Second Coming of the Lord will be the end of this world as we know it, and the inauguration of the fullness of the Kingdom. This great and terrible day will see the universal judgment, when humanity and even the final reckoning of all creation.

We pray for the coming of the kingdom every time we say the Lord's Prayer. We pray that the Lord will keep us steadfast on the path of life, so that on the Day of Judgment we will not be found wanting.



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New players cut fuel prices

MONG ANGKI of the region, now of players dashed prices of gasoline, diesel and kerosene by P1.95-2.00/liter.

First to implement the price cuts was Isaac Philippines Inc. at 10 p.m. yesterday followed by Pilipinas V at 12:01 a.m. today. Both companies announced fuel prices by P2.20/liter.

Eastern Petroleum Corp. also brought prices of the same products down, but by P1.a liter.

They all cited falling international prices as the reason for the rollback.

According to data from the Department of Energy, the regional benchmark Dubai crude had gone down to $56 a barrel as of Nov. 12, from $67 a barrel last month.

The price of an traded gasoline based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) benchmark for refined petroleum products likewise went down to $56 a barrel in the first 12 days of November, from the $80-a-barrel average in October.

MOPS-based diesel also declined to $78 a barrel in the Nov. 1-12 period, from last month's $63-a-barrel average.

DOE oil industry competition and monitoring division chief Melita Dilidili said consumers could expect more rollbacks this month, both for fuels and liquefied petroleum gas.

With this price reductions, the price of premium unleaded gasoline now ranged from 998.57-P46.76 a liter, of diesel to P45.57-P46.50 a liter, and of kerosene from P65.P46.50 a liter. Abigail G. Ho

"Because access to the Philippines would triple by 2020 to 2025, to the tune of a quarter of 2008, more than 400 deaths have been reported."
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CITIZENS FOR LIFE & COMMISSION ON FAMILY LIFE OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF JARO

"Know the TRUTH and the TRUTH will set you free" (John 8:32)

The works of Satan must be **put in the Light of Christ! We are not against the sponsors, supporters (PRO) or those who are against the passage (NO), of the Reproductive Health Bill (HB 5043).** We are for the **CONVERSION OF EVERYONE**, to embrace the **LIGHT**, so that we will be set free from:

- **DECEPTION** in the use of the terms and goal of the program (Section 3.R.2) Instead of promoting "reproductive health", HB 5043 promotes the use of contraceptives. **Contraceptives poison the womb, render women and men sterile or infertile; indirectly increase possibility of AIDS, and other Sexually Transmitted Diseases by giving a false sense of security; and kill babies in the womb!**

  Population can not be developed if RH bill will dramatically reduce it, render people sick, infertile or sterile and kill the future generations! **This is not population development! This is pure and simple GENOCIDE!**

  The Philippine Constitution is strongly pro-life and pro-family which is in everyone contrast to the intence of the RH bill. If this is so, why will we allow a bill which will sabotage our very own Constitution? (Section 3)

- **SEXUAL PROMISCUITY** by creating a climate of **"free sex, no responsibility" through widespread and well-coordinated availability of contraceptives** (Section 3-f, g, i, k, l; Section 4-d, e, g; Sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11)

- **DESTROYING the purity and innocence of children by introducing mandatory sex education from Grade 5 to 6th Year High School.** This is not just ordinary sex education, it will include teaching the children how to use condoms, pills, etc. (Section 13-f)

- **SIPHONING our Financial Resources** by redirecting it towards the Reproductive Health program **leaving more urgent programs, like education, genuine poverty alleviation and other basic services, a non-priority.** (Section 23)

- **THREATENING PHYSICIANS AND OTHER HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS, employees, public officials and the rest of the Filipino citizenry**, if anybody refuses to cooperate with the reproductive health program, he/she can be imprisoned (1 month to 6 months) or be penalized (P10,000 to P50,000) (Sections 23-25)

- **DESECRATION OF FAITH (ANTI-GOD, ANTI-LIFE)** causing further deterioration of the nation's moral fiber

Endorsed: Archdiocesan Commission on Family and Life, Archdiocese of Jaro

We appeal that this Reproductive Health Bill (HB 5043) be DISAPPROVED by CONGRESS!

Know the Truth Ministry
Transfiguration Community
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PRAYER

Lord God our Father, You are the Author of Life. Animal is You installed the institution of the Family, strengthen it. You are the reason of our Faith, embolden it. Father, the hall of destruction of Life, Faith, Family and Nation is raging all around us and threatening to engulf us in the abyss of darkness.

Reproductive Health Bill (HB 5043) is bound to kill the Life You have brought created, destroy the Family You so faithfully nurtured, darken the Faith You have steadfastly implanted and eliminate the Nation You framed and built.

Father, we place this HB 5043 right at the foot of the cross of Your Son Jesus Christ, so that with His Light, He will expose its darkness, with His Truth, He will expose its lies, and with His Suffering and Death on the Cross, He will bring it to its ultimate defeat. Amen.

This we ask of You in the Holy Name of Jesus, with the Holy Spirit, One God forever and ever. AMEN!

JDV to form new 'rainbow' coalition for 2010

By Leila B. Salaverria and Allison W. Lapaz

FORMER SPEAKER JOSE DE VENECIA JR. wants to show Malacañang he is still a force in politics with, planning to build a new rainbow coalition that would field a presidential candidate in 2010 to run against the administration's bet.

He said many politicians were ready to switch sides and join him because anyone identified with President Macapagal-Arroyo would see their political ambitions dashed.

"Anyone associated with (Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo) is doomed to decline. Public opinion is very strong," De Venecia told reporters in an interview at the House of Representatives Wednesday morning.

He said he had begun talking to leaders of other political parties to get them to join the "powerful" coalition that would offer Filipinos a candidate who would honor things.

"We'll create a new, enlarged powerful majority, elect the next president of the Philippines. That is what we're working on," he said.

De Venecia had formed rainbow coalitions, composed of disparate parties and politicians, in past congresses he had headed.

He said many politicians had told him they were ready to join him again.

'Crossing the river'

"Many of them said to me that early next year...many have already begun...they are prepared to cross the river," he said.

De Venecia is president emeritus of Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats, the current ruling coalition whose de facto leader is President Arroyo. He was bemoaned the side after being ousted from the speakership in February.

His statements allies in the House originated his name after his son and namesake, Jose "Joey" de Venecia III, alleged involvement in the government's National Broadband Network deal with a Chinese corporation and implicated the President's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo.

He has since signed on to the impeachment complaints his son and others recently filed against President Arroyo.

Asked if Vice President Noli de Castro was someone the coalition would consider to be its standard bearer since the latter did not have a party, he said: "This can all be subject to deliberations."

Meanwhile, someone who has declared his presidential candidacy for 2010 has said the administration's bet would likely suffer the fate of John McCain, the Republican candidate who lost the US presidential race to Democrat Barack Obama last week.

Binay's bid

Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay said yesterday that like the US polls, the Philippine elections will be about the record of the incumbent.

"(If Arroyo's) anointed candidate will have to defend her record (and) see a public that is dissatisfied with her performance," Binay said, citing the latest Pulse Asia survey showing rising public disapproval of GMA.

Binay, president of the United Opposition, announced his intention to run for president on Tuesday.

He said the administration party Lakas had stretched the analogy when it compared former President Joseph Estrada to George W. Bush, the incumbent US president.

McCain, analysts have said, lost because of the unpopular policies of Bush, another Republican.

"Erap is not the incumbent, Ms Arroyo is. And like Bush, the public is very dissatisfied with her performance. If you go by the US election, Ms Arroyo's record will doom the chances of her anointed candidate," Binay said.

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BPO: RP one bright light in sea of global gloom

Paragraph1

cities would "actually drive more BPO business to the Philippines."

"But will we many more companies having to go offshore just to survive," Santos said.

He said he expected about 9.92 million square meters of Philippine office space to be leased this year, up 32 percent from 2007.

"We are part of the solution, are part of the problem," Oscar Santos, chief executive of the Business Processing Association of the Philippines, said in a recent interview.

1 million workers by 2010

The BPO sector expects annual growth of around 40 percent with revenues hitting $22 billion by 2010 and employing 1 million people compared with 400,000 this year.

In India, where the industry generates some $40 million in annual export revenues, the story is much the same although it admits that it could expect some initial pain.

The sector traditionally views bad times as offering opportunities as Western companies cut costs by moving work to cheaper destinations offshore.

India finds the world when it comes to outsourcing with lower-than-half the global business while the Philippines is a distant second with around 10 percent.

Both countries place a great deal of importance on the sector as its growth creates jobs and much-needed revenues.

Preferred destinations

India and the Philippines are the preferred destinations for European and American banks and IT companies for outsourcing their back room and call center operations due to the highly educated work force and English-speaking skills in both countries.

Santos said that despite the financial turmoil, he was confident the BPO industry in the Philippines would continue to see growth.

"Judging from the investor meetings we've been having recently our clients will want to ramp up their outsourcing activities in order to modernize and cut costs," he said.

"The Philippines is in a very strategic position due to its strong and successful experience with BPO, particularly with large American and British multinationals giving it a high level of credibility and least exposure to risk in critical times."

Disruption

Santos conceded that in the short term there could be a "bit of disruption" due to management and ownership realignments in the banking sector.

"But this should not affect outsourcing operations as there are critical functions, especially those that connect with customers," he said.

Some 45 percent of the BPO business in the Philippines is in banking and consumer, mainly from the United States.

Santos also believes there are many industries outside the banking sector that can be tapped for new business.

"Industries like construction, food, retail and distribution, high tech, luxury industries and the pharmaceutical sectors have yet to be tapped," he said.

In the fiscal year ending mid-2008, the Philippines generated $4 billion in revenues from the BPO business, slightly behind the $4.7 billion posted by India.

Similar accent

Besides a skilled and educated workforce, low wage and good telecommunications infrastructure are among the attractions of the Philippines, according to Cascadia-based Info-Tech Research Group.

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"The continuing upsurge of call centers in the Philippines is attributed to high-quality service delivered by educated English-speaking agents with accent similar to their North American callers," said Howard Kleiner, senior research analyst with Info-Tech Research Group.

Enterprises that have opened call centers in the country include Dell, Citibank, AOL, HSBC, Convergys, Intec and Telus.

Expansions

Most of these enterprises are continuing to expand their offshore call centers despite the recession's troubles in North America, said Kleiner's research note "Contact Center Offshoring: Philippines, the Next Big Destination?" It was published in September.

The Info-Tech Research Group, which has offices in Toronto and in London, said its study was based on data from field research in the Philippines that included discussions and survey interviews with contact center executives, their vendors and industry leaders.

Reports from AFP and Nina T. Ochoa-Ortiz

FAST FACTS

Call Centers in the Philippines

- No.—ESTIMATED NUMBER OF call centers in the country
- P13,137 to P17,212—average monthly wage rates of customer service representatives (2006)
- 14—call center locations (Baguio, Bacolod-Cadiz City-Talisay, Cagayan de Oro, Cebu, Davao, Iloilo, Laguna, Makati, Mandaluyong, Muntinlupa, Marikina, Mandaue, Negros Island, Pampanga, Pasig, Pasay, Quezon City Rizal and San Juan.)
- 129,000—estimated number of call center seats
- 23.4 percent—estimated call center seats growth for 2008
- 40,000 to 80,000—estimated call center job openings created in as of 2007
- 2nd—rank of Manila as business process outsourcing (BPO) destination in Asia-Pacific by the International Data Corp. as of 2008; Manila was moved up to Bangalore, India; Quezon City ranked 7th, Cebu 8th and Davao 10th.

Sources: ISS Archives, Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics Occupational Wages Survey 2006, software philippines.com, BPAP

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Bolante testimony 'unbelievable,' say senators

From page A1

press was approved by [the budget department] without the President's approval."

"That's unbelievable," Roxas said. "[Mr. Bolante] concerns himself with every minute detail of running the government. To say that she did not approve it, that is too hard to accept. This is P728 million."

Roxas told reporters it was impossible, as the chief agriculture undersecretary had claimed, that no higher official had a hand in the release of the fertilizer fund.

"Let's say the President was not consulted in the anomaly. But that she did not know such a big amount of money has been released is truly unbelievable," Roxas said to Filipinos, adding that Ms. Arroyo was known to be a "micromanager."

Asked how much he believed of Bolante's testimony, Roxas said the senators opposed to Arroyo were willing the majority votes to name all his name. He refuses to be their senator and his health condition.

Sen. Francis Escudero echoed this disbelief, saying Bolante would not have exercised the public freedom of his constitutional testimony.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago said Bolante was "lying under oath out of sheer necessity," and that for was "obviously" covering up for "a person or a group higher than him."

Going home

But after grilling Bolante for nearly nine hours, the Senate blue ribbon committee chaired by Cayetano decided to allow the witness to go home to his family.

IN THIS CORNER A check of lawyers and advisers circle behind Bolante during the senior minister hearing of the Senate blue ribbon committee on the alleged fertilizer fund scam. JOY ROPERO

The decision brought relief to Bolante, who has been staying at St. Luke's Medical Center in Quezon City since he was deported from the United States on Oct. 28.

Cayetano announced the committee's decision...that Bolante would be released to his family but still under Senate guard—after a minute of consultation with other senators.

"Yes, and we will assign guards kasi 'in fail you and able to make sure that you are safe," the senator said.

Cayetano, however, pointed out that Bolante could be allowed to go home on the condition that he would pledge under oath to make himself available for future hearings.

It was Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. who suggested that Bolante be released from Senator custody. "Simpler many questions still hanging in the air."

To Bolante's chairman of volunteer he not also free to attend a similar inquiry into the fertilizer fund scam at the House of Representatives, Pimentel replied in the affirmative.

"You can even go to the video bar where you can sing better than her any you are singing now. Just treat [the congressmen] like a palace wife," Pimentel said.

"But not exactly this would be the [agriculture] secretary because it will be left the country; he escaped," she said in reference to Sen. Agriculture Secretary Gilt Lorenzo.

Asked what she thought was the extent of the culpability of the fund scam, Santiago said: "Certainly it leads up to Malacañang because even if the former secretary of agriculture returns to the Philippines claiming that he didn't receive his own kickback, then who released the [release] order? Someone had to issue an order. It's not automatic. But an undersecretary has that power."

Santiago said that for lying, Bolante should be cited for contempt, and his lawyers as well "for coaching him to that manner."

"I think they pushed the envelope too far. There is a very thin line between performing your function as a lawyer to defend your client with all your might and counseling with your client to tell an outright bombard lie," she said.

According to Santiago, Bolante was "just unmovable" during his testimony.

"He took a position and stuck to it, so if he were connected to that platform," she said.

Good lawyers

Present at the hearing was former Sen. Nazario Ebdgapuyo Jr., who chaired the Senate agriculture committee that investigated Bolante and found him guilty of orchestrating the scam.

"It's ordinary Filipino, [for testimony] outright commendable because he killed in a cold anomaly that if the people were to look at one aspect [on the fertilizer fund scam] and to decide the people will get mad," Magsaysay said.

Asked whether he thought Bolante had conspired with his lawyers, the former senator pointed out that the witness had two weeks to prepare at St. Luke's.

Earlier yesterday, some 10 protesters launched "Bantay Bolante" and occupied a lane of E. Rodriguez Avenue outside St. Luke's as early as 6 a.m.

Bolante, dressed in a white long-sleeved barong and black pants with a gold pin on his collar, strode out of the hospital in a little past 7 a.m.

He rushed to a Chevrolet van waiting and speeded, flanked by guards from the Office of the Senate Sergeant at Arms.

He arrived at the Senate in a five-vehicle convoy at around 7:30 a.m. and was immediately taken to the clinic.

Sen. Chiz Escudero, Cayetano, Ver sen and other Bolante's say were seen interested in the whole the money was used. We're after truth and justice. What need reminded. The board, who took [Jun Favel] from the house [unselfishness], and who used this for personal gain."

Cayetano said "Bantay Bolante" would guard against any attempt to whitewash the investigation of the fund scam.

She said lawmen belonging to the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas had prepared "thousands of cards" containing that they had not received a centavo from the fertilizer fund.

"The oldtimers are ready if the [senate call] for them. Malacañang has been ordering Bolante like a basketball. It's time he refused to be a convenient fall guy for a bigger crime stemming from Malacañang," Clemente said.

Kickbacks

At the hearing, Santiago continued Bolante with the rather controversy in the Senate of Jun Favel, a supposed "Warrior" who had offered local officials fertilizer subsidies ranging from P5 million to P15 million.

According to Bacordo, Bolante got 25 percent of the kickbacks, or P382 million; the local government official, 30 percent; the supplier, 30 percent; and the canvasser, the remaining 25 percent.

Said Santiago: "So nothing was left to buy fertilizer and [you figure] throughout so long mula pangarap ang area [They divided the money among themselves]. That is why it is called the fertilizer fund scam."

But Bolante denied knowing Bacordo.

To which Santiago said: "Well, I didn't ask you, I asked you. Give me proof that Mr. Bolante received the fertilizer."

Bolante also said he did not know that the supplier, Fedtec, existed.

At one of hearings existed. "You distributed fertilizer ... But you don't understand where the fertilizer came from?"

Bolante said he neither distributed nor purchased the fertilizer but only coordinated with the Department of Agriculture's secretary from the national office to the regional field units."

He said then Agriculture Secretary Lorenzo And authorized him to do so because the letter "often came was starting in that then."

To which Santiago quipped, "If he [Lorenzo] told have [come] the [senate secretary]."

Bocodio's testimony

Senate called Bolante's attention to the testimony of Senate Budget Secretary Emily Bocodio before the joint Senate committee on finance [on the] the fertilizer fund scam on Oct. 2008.

He said that when asked if the fertilizer fund request by Bolante for the agriculture department was upon the President's instruction, Bocodio replied: "I would imagine so." With reports from *Ai Fatoreto and Jack M. Arcelo*

'Preferential' treatment

By Christine O. Avendaño

"I FEEL GOOD, AT LEAST I can be with my family," too-ye Bolante told reporters last night as he made his way out of the Senate building after nine hours of grilling.

Just as he arrived in the morning, he left under heavy guard.

The end of the hearing resulted to a melee that saw the glass door of the session hall being broken into pieces and civil society members shouting Bolante's name.

In the gallery, Fees and Gloria Akosa expressed dismay that the senators had decided to let Bolante go home.

"What about fund scandal?" Gloria Akosa said of the Senators' non witness to the national broadband scandal, who continues to be under the protection of the Senate. Son of Major Gallipot Importers of the Philippines.

She said the Senate's resentment of Bolante was "preferential treatment."

Defending his committee's decision to put Bolante under house arrest, Cayetano asked civil society groups to "understand the legal process and dynamics of the Senate."

"Con't expect it to be a prime-time comedy," he said.

Cayetano said the "locks" in Bolante's testimony were obvious. He said the senators were not convinced that the witness had an involvement in the fertilizer fund scam.

He said he would call another hearing "sometime next week" and summon Bolante and agricultural officials.

Lawmakers admit: We got something, not fertilizer

From page A1

lawmakers who had requested allowances from the fertilizer fund of the Department of Agriculture (DA).

Zubiri, who was not on the DBM list of lawmakers who received a fertilizer fund, said he was offered a "loan" from the agriculture department that listed several of its officials.

Shredder

Zubiri said he chose the training programs for Bohol since, in his city and is perhaps shredder for a solid waste management program.

The two said in a statement that the special allowances releases order there's he received amounted to between P3 million and P5 million, and the projects he chose were implemented by the agriculture department.

He said the funds specified the projects or the purpose for which the fund could be used. "I asked for the fruit-bread training program for my clientele. It is the oldest fishing district in Metro Manila ... The shredder was for the solid waste management program," Zubiri said.

After May elections

He said the list of available projects was given to him in 2004, but the programs were implemented only after the May elections. He claimed he did not receive any kickback or any money to purchase it.

What Zubiri said, who was on the DBM list, requested and received from the agriculture department was a garbage shredder. He made the request after being told that the shredder was available.

"I asked for it from the DA because it said there were funds. But I did not ask for fertilizer. What will I do with that?" he said.

In earlier reports, Jones said the received funding from the agriculture department, but used it to buy shredders.

Money declined

For his part, Pangasinan Rep. Hector Aghayan took office in the 1st of public officials who returned part of the P728-million fertilizer fund.

Aghayan, who was listed as among the governors allocated P5 million in 2004 from the Countrywide Development Fund program, said not all of those on the list accepted the money.

Aghayan said he refused the fund offer. "He wanted to use the fund for farm-to-market roads, post-harvest or irrigation facilities. But we were told we could not. So we declined the fund," he said in a statement.

He said he chose to waive his allotment because the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist of Pangasinan had said the type of fertilizers offered would be of no use to farmers.

Pampanga Gov. Eduardo Ehindi, Former Water Rep. Rogelio Garcia, confirmed that the governor's Bond congressional district had been allocated P5 million.

However, he said the implementation of the program was done by the agriculture department. "My participation was only to identify the municipalities where it would be implemented," Ehindi said.

In a text message, he said the winning supplier was legitimate and not one of those mentioned in the Senate probe.

Straight to farmers

In Pampanga, City of San Fernando Mayor Oscar Rodriguez told his congressional office in the third district in 2004 did not get any cash.

The DBM report listed him as having been allotted P3 million. "What I know is that the request for fertilizer and lucan inputs were given by the DA straight to farmers or LGUs. [Local government units]," Rodriguez said.

There, he said, were well accounted for in reports submitted by the agriculture department. An audit by the Commission on Audit (COA) showed no problems in the distribution, he said.

Without his knowledge

Former Bataan Rep. Enrique Garcia Jr., now the province's embattled governor, said he was included in the list of officials with him "without my knowing it."

"I did not ask for it, much more receive it. And the list of COA, DBM and other officials concur will show that my name is not included," Garcia said.

Former Bataan Rep. Wilfredo Villarama said: "I did not ask for any funding from the DA for fertilizer. I did not get any notice from the DA or DBM that I have been allocated P5 million and did not receive any funds for the purchase of fertilizer."

Imbalido, Rep. Edcel Lagman said any anomaly in the distribution of the fund to the province.

He said the DBM fund information process must fund from officials to his district.

"But we never directly received the money," he said.

He said municipal agricultural officials in his district identified the fund recipients.

Negros Occidental

Two of the seven officials of Negros Occidental on the DBM list submitted a covering letter endorsement.

While Rep. Mianne Bacorro-Villa of Bacolod City and Bienvenido Abe Mayor Carmencita Reyes said they were among the recipients of the fund, the five other officials in Negros Occidental linked to the fertilizer scam scandal said they did not receive the assistance.

Reyes said she allocated the P5-million fertilizer fund given to her city to Barangay Camansi, Zone 3 and 6.

"I asked the captains of those three barangays to distribute the fertilizer to the farmers," she said.

Gov. Isidro Zayas, then vice governor of Negros Occidental, denied receiving P5 million.

Then Rep. Alfredo Marañon Jr. [now Bagay City mayor], Rep. Jose Carlos Lacson and former Rep. Jose Apolinario Lozada also said they did not receive any fertilizer funds.

In good faith

North Cotabato Vice Gov. Emmylou Piñol said he received an allocation it on the fertilizer fund when he was still governor in 2004.

Piñol said he received the money in good faith and used it to help farmers. "Our province is agriculture-based. We needed the funds. We used the money to help our farmers," he said.

Piñol said the checks, amounting to a total of P5 million, were released three days after the 2004 elections.

Because of the fertilizer subsidy, North Cotabato eventually became the country's eighth rice producing province, he said.

Show proof

Piñol said he also had questions on the disbursement of the fund. "Where is the head of Mabel, Manila or Quezon City would you find this fertilizer?" he said.

Piñol said all recipients of the fund should "submit proof of utilization."

In Dipio City, Davao del Sur Gov. Douglas Cagas also urged Metro Manila officials to show proof that the money they received benefited farmers. "I wonder how those in Metro Manila used the fertilizer," he said.

Cagas said he was also a recipient of the fertilizer subsidy fund when he was still a congressman. But he said that he had no hand in the purchase of the fertilizer and that farmers benefited from it. Report by Ryan Dimcle Ocejo, Inquirer Central Luzon, and Rhonda Nicole Bañ and Gilbert Hagos Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon; Carlo F. Bonoan, Inquirer Visayas; Edwin O. Fernandez, Orlando B. Dinoy and Charlie C. Nelson, Inquirer Mindanao

DO YOU KNOW THIS WOMAN? Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago shows Bolante, Ma's referring to the broadcast on Mariano Bigcas, who said it [was] in 2005 to Subic Bodacio it out of her chairs. She testified as one at the Ombudsman against Bolante. JOY ROPERO

Give justice a human face, Gonzalez tells NBI

JUSTICE SECRETARY RAUL Gonzalez urged the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) to give justice a human face by ensuring equality in the delivery of justice for both the privileged and the poor, although he admitted that inequality is a fact of life in this country.

"In the justice system, we must aim to it that we can equalize the situation for our privileged rich and people who have been because of poverty," Gonzalez said in a speech at the commemoration of the 72nd anniversary of the NBI.

"We cannot succeed in bringing justice to people unless there is an equality approach in justice," he said.

The justice secretary said there is the NBI motto of "nobility, bravery and integrity," he would add the US military academy, West Point's motto of "duty, honor, country."

"If you are an NBI officer, you must carry the banner, the honor, the tradition of what the NBI stands for: nobility, bravery, integrity," he said.

Gonzalez alluded cheers when he announced that President Macapagal-Arroyo will be signing soon an executive order rationalizing the bureau from the reconsolidation law, or RD 366, calling for the streamlining of the Executive Branch by consolidating, merging or abolishing some departments.

The exemption will enable the NBI to beef up its staff without having to seek approval from the Department of Budget and Management.

NBI spokesperson Allan Cerezo said this was significant as it would allow the bureau to recruit new personnel despite the freeze on hiring in government. (Jeannette I. Andrade)

National Book Week set Nov. 24-30

THE 74th ANNUAL celebration of reading in one of the most effective methods of enlightening people and fine celebrated anew in the nation observes the 74th National Book Week from Nov. 24-30 is mandated by Proclamation No. 109 signed in 1956.

This year's theme is "Ang Batang Filipinas Dahilan sa Kahuyan."

The Philippine Librarians Association Inc., in cooperation with The National Library, will spearhead various activities during the week-long observation. Kicking off the celebration is an Outreach Program at the Gawad Kalinga Marabi in Rosal, Dinalupan City. The formal opening ceremonies will be held at the National Library on Nov. 24 with Rep. Del H. de Guzman of Bantil-an, chair of the House committee on basic education, as guest speaker.

In closing the week-long affair is a lecture forum on "The Filipino Librarian: Today and Tomorrow" and fellowship luncheon at Bangsa'an Idea, Quezon City on Nov. 28, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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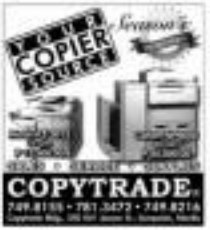

Dureza faces court's contempt for Magdalo trial snub

DEFENSE SECRETARY JESUS DUREZA HAS been given five days to explain his failure to show up yesterday at a Makati regional trial court hearing of the rebel soldiers charged with coup d'etat for the failed July 2003 coup.

Dureza was subpoenaed by Judge Oscar Pimentel to provide the court with documents requested by the defense pertaining to the capture by government troops of the Abufuk camp of the commander Moro Islamic Liberation Front in 2003. Dureza or his designated representative were a no-show, however.

Defense lawyer Renato Francisco A. told the court agreed that "Dureza should show cause and explain why an action should be taken against him".

The rebels, who called themselves the Magdalo group, claim that the "command structure" of the military struck on Bohol was what drove them to go to the Ayala Center and take over the Oakwood hotel in "an [illegal] government" during the failed coup.

Mindanao plans

Francisco said Dureza's office could provide certified true copies of President Macapagal-Arroyo's speech and several press releases on the Bohol complex which, he said, would show the "commonwealth plans" for Mindanao.

The court earlier denied the defense's petitions to have Sen. Gregorio Honasan appear as a witness, saying that he was a co-accused in the case and could not be compelled to testify against his co-accused.

But it granted the request to issue subpoenas to Bonoyo and Antonio Bautista, chief of the Senate legislative archives, for the two officials to provide documents which the accused have demanded.

Reuters, who appeared at yesterday's hearing, sought documents which included the Senate proceedings on the coup d'etat law. They were marked yesterday as evidence for the accused.

Francisco said they would file a motion for reconsideration on the judge's decision rejecting the defense petition to issue Honasan a subpoena.

Honasan, a cashiered Army colonel who led several bloody coups against the Aquino administration in the 1980s, was accused of being the leader of the July 2003 failed coup because Alfredo Maquerre by a "National Recovery Program" which apparently inspired the Magdalo soldiers.

But the Justice department later dropped the charges against Honasan for lack of evidence.

"We aren't let testimony that Honsh nothing illegal in the National Recovery Program. We believe his testimony will help prove the innocence of the accused," said Francisco.

'Center of power'

The lawyer said the defense was also considering asking former Senate President Jovito Salonga to testify on the Senate proceedings on the enactment of the coup d'etat law, or RA 6968, in 1990.

In the Senate bill, Francisco said the definition of a coup d'etat as a "sudden, swift attack on a center of power, for the purpose of overthrowing the government" was not present in the July 2003 coup, also known as the Oakwood incident.

"It said 'center of power,' not commander-in-chief or rebellion, the triggers could be any how to a coup d'etat, it must be directed at the seat/center of power, which is Malacañang," Francisco said.

Should the 10-year-old Salonga be summoned, Francisco said the defense could call on another former senator, Joey Lina, who was the law's principal author. Allison W. Lopez

INQUIRER

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Report says Obama campaign blazed new communication trails

THE SUCCESSFUL ELECTION campaign of US President-elect Barack Obama will pave the way for a new way of communicating and reaching key audiences, and campaigns will continue to evolve as the digital landscape changes.

This was the summary of the recently released report on the Obama campaign submitted by the Weber Shandwick Worldwide, a leading global public relations agency which conducted a strategic assessment of the Obama campaign and its application of the new media to power the first Black American to the White House.

The report, announced locally in a press statement by Michael Sobkowski, president of Weber Shandwick Philippines, said the digital campaign of Obama was based on lessons from previous US presidential campaigns "by applying principles of individual empowerment in a disciplined and creative campaign, employing new technologies and creative ideas to transform online advocates into offline activists."

First 'trillion' brand

The paper said that, in many ways, Obama was the first "billion brand"—the seamless convergence of online and offline communications. Obama, the Democratic candidate, trounced Republican candidate John McCain in last week's US presidential election, to become the first African American to win the US presidency.

The paper, however, said that "not all the tactics will be relevant to all future campaigns, and certainly not every campaign in the political or corporate world will have the resources the Obama campaign had."

The paper also presents lessons learned from the Obama campaign.

For one, it said, the Obama campaign was able to build a large online community in part because its campaign donor was explicitly about "you" and not "I."

While most brands in a campaign instinctively want to control every instance or use of their name or logo, the Obama campaign instead encouraged people to individualize and stylize their brand. The most prominent example of this was Artists for Obama, a collective of designers who put their energy to the Obama brand through original T-shirt and poster designs.

Social networks

The main campaign website built a wide online presence that met their audiences where they were already spending hours of their online, taking advantage of large social networks such as Facebook, MySpace and YouTube and niche networks such as LinkedIn, BlackPlanet, GLBT, Eons and MiGente. This enabled the campaign to expand its audience and reach communities across a wider social landscape.

Weber Shandwick, according to its website, is a leading international public relations agency with offices in over 70 countries around the world, providing strategy and execution across world-class practices such as consumer marketing, healthcare, technology, public affairs, corporate/financial/crisis management.

Smart bags 7 Quills

SMART COMMUNICATIONS Inc. bagged seven awards at the 2008 Philippine Quill Awards held last week by the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC)-Philippines.

The leading wireless services provider received two Awards of Excellence for its "Smart Movement—Serve Employ Better: Changing Lives and Livelihood" under the economic, social and environmental development category and for its "Smart Schools Program Website: Preparing the ground for user-generated content through active online participation" under the electronic/digital communications management category.

These projects were among the 32 excellence awardees chosen by IABC Philippines from more than 200 entries submitted this year.

Smart also received four Awards of Merit for the "Smart Schools Program: Dunia Pa Ang Aming" (Category 4: Multi-Audience Communication), "TEXT Payphone-My Phone-y Takeover" (Category 7: Marketing Communication), "Text-Upod Quarterly" (Category 29: Publications), "Time to be Welcomed: Renewal Launch of the Welcome Campaign" (Category 9: Employee/ Member Communication) and "Dunia Ko Ito Serye Ad Series" (Category 26: Advertising Conventional Media).

The Philippine Quill Awards is an annual event that honors the achievements of professionals in communication by recognizing the most outstanding achievements in communication management, communication skills, and creativity.

The Quill has become the industry benchmark for world-class programs and productions. It is organized by IABC Philippines and comprises more than 100 senior practitioners from public relations, advertising, corporate communications, new media, the government, nongovernment organizations and civil society.

INQUIRER
OPINION

Joc-Joc in the dock

EDITORIAL

AT, FINALLY, AFTER THREE LONG YEARS (TWO of them spent in an Australian detention facility), a much-aged Jocelyn "Joc-Joc" Bolante showed up yesterday for his appointment with the Senate.

It is no surprise surprised he said what he ended up saying? He denied perpetrating any irregularity in the P728-million fertilizer program, cleared President Macapagal-Arroyo of any involvement in the fertilizer, even asserted then he did not know the political affiliations of the government officials who benefited from the fertilizer program. He also claimed that he failed to return to the Philippines earlier than he did because: (a) he feared for his safety after learning of the "bounty" on his head, and (b) US authorities sought to protect him, for as long as they could, from the threats to his life. You are our responsibility now, he recalled being told.

Each of these assertions strains belief. Bolante is asking not only the Senate but the public at large to believe that it was only the annoying presence of mere circumstances that prevented him from finally testifying before the Senate. In other words, he did a Garci.

Former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano, another Arroyo appointee implicated in election-related anomalies in the 2004 vote, played hide and seek with the authorities after the warrants for his arrest were issued. When he finally appeared before the House of Representatives, Garcillano conducted himself as though he had been planning to testify on the "Hello, Garci" tapes all along.

Unfortunately, the power of the Senate to force Bolante to tell the whole truth is limited, because of already-familiar factors.

Some senators did not do their homework. Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, for instance, wasted his well, recalling official US documents for the record. But in attempting to pin down Bolante on something more solid than the ex-fugitive's stacked evasiveness, Biazon made elementary mistakes. He asked why Bolante failed to advise the Senate between Dec. 5 and Dec. 11, 2006 that he could not attend the Dec. 12 hearing, when, as anyone who has followed the issue closely enough knows, he did in fact send an advisory through his lawyer, on Dec. 9. Allowing Bolante to "correct" the record with no authoritative but corroborated Biazon's elaborate warning that even evasive answers could give rise to a citation for contempt.

Some senators spent more time interrogating the senators. Sen. Ma. Lourdes Sotto, for example, asked Bolante why as election official personal, chose not Bolante for his counter assertion by calling attendees to her own sense of health. She then pressed on to question Bolante's motives in subject his (presumed) answers to proof. But to fair his own answers no the former agriculture official. Perhaps Estrada should have remembered his own time in detention, when Like Bolante he feigned a debilitating illness (in his case, however, he stayed at the Makati Medical Center), to try to achieve a more sympathetic relationship with the witness. Perhaps he could have evoked a more telling answer: instead, he provoked Bolante into issuing a blanket denial of President Arroyo's involvement.

On the other hand, there were definite victories for the cause of greater public accountability. Senate Minority Leader Noynoy Aquino III made a tactical point, when he forced Bolante to begin questioning about the political affiliations of the fertilizer fund's beneficiaries. (The absurdity of Bolante's exalted ignorance reached its lowest point when he initially said he did not know whom Jose de Venecia, then the speaker of the House, supported in 2004.) Sen. Loren Legarda got Bolante to offer a new "fact": that 91 percent of the funds disbursed had already been liquidated.

Bolante is returning to the Senate for more questions. What we would like to be clarified on is the extraordinary speed with which the release of the funds for the fertilizer initiative was released by the Department of Budget and Management. If this does not signify the President's own hand in the scam (which other aid helped her own campaign for the presidency), then lawyers help us: the entire government is in the clear.

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Legarda, Escudero and Zubiri on Joc-Joc

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THREE OF THE BEST-AND-BRIGHTEST SENators, two of them with very good chances of becoming the next presidents of the Philippines, lobbied during impeachment hour to kill Monday's Bolante vs Biazon. The three are also the youngest and the best looking among our senators, and therefore very popular. They are Senators Loren Legarda, Chiz Escudero and Migz Zubiri. The first two rank at the top of opinion polls on "presidentiables" for the 2010 elections. They are both members of the Nacionalista People's Coalition. Zubiri is secretary general of Lakas. Either they say, therefore, have possibly chose the position of the Philippine government in the near future.

Legarda's advocacy is the environment. Escudero's focus is on stopping corruption in government. And Zubiri's efforts are concentrated on propagating the production and use of biofuels. (Zubiri has since resigned from the Senate to run for governor of Bukidnon.)

In the course, Escudero and Zubiri have undertaken the institution of some of the fellow senators that the committee on rules formed the resumption of the investigation of former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-Joc" Bolante, suspected mastermind of the fertilizer fund scam. "There is no committee on rules," Biazon said. "and Joc-Joc should be made to appear before the Senate to shed light on the scam." Bolante was supposed to begin singing yesterday, but as that was being written, it was not yet certain whether or not he would make good his word.)

But the panel Zubiri and Escudero organized to be against the resumption of the investigation, claiming that he is not really opposition. He just wanted some issues clarified, he said. If his colleagues remain unconvinced, so be it, he added.

Legarda is also going for it, loudly upon the Bolante case. She has been a staunch friend mom and for the ex-fugitive since he was a boy.

For the edification of the very few who still do not know the background of the fertilizer fund scam, here is a brief background: Australian Magdalo figure at first exposed a P702 million fertilizer scam in 2003. She filed graft cases against Bolante and other DA officials with the Office of the Ombudsman. For his efforts, she was rewarded in front of her children, "The Ombudsman subsequently dismissed the graft charges she filed. Another fertilizer scam, this time for P728 million, was discovered for which Bolante was accused as the chief architect.

The fertilizer was supposed to have been distributed to farmers, through their cooperatives and local government officials. The money was first the fertilizer was distributed during last year's election, not during planting time. Not surprisingly, the distribution was made before the beginning of the 2004 presidential campaign. Almost as much was the fact that cooperatives of dummies that have no farms, such as those in Mindanao, were given fertilizer allocations. Worse, some cooperatives who were on the list said that they did not receive any allocations. Worse, the fertilizer was sold to these farmers over-priced by as much as 1,000 percent! Farmers said the liquid fertilizer was diluted with water. Some of the money was channeled to the election campaign kitty of the President, which is why Bolante is absolutely afraid of telling the truth.

The Senate decided to investigate and summoned Bolante for questioning. When he did not show up, Senate President Manuel Villar issued a warrant. He fled to the United States and asked for asylum, saying his life would be in danger if he returned to the Philippines. The United States cancelled his visa and put him in jail while his petition for asylum was being heard. After two years, the United States denied the petition and deported him to the Philippines. Upon arrival here, he put on an act and who takes, not to the Senate, but to St. Luke's Medical Center where he was subjected to a battery of medical tests. The only test he did not undergo was a psychiatric test.

Bolante's health was not always in good shape. He was more robust in days long ago in the hospital short of declaring him in the leg. Bolante was discharged. He was arraigning a room unaided by nationals ill patients. Still, he asked for a few more days in the hospital and Senate President Manuel Villar approved his request, perhaps thinking it a therapy for him to stay in the hospital rather than in a posing his own bills, rather than making the taxpayers pay for his upkeep in the hotels.

Bolante promised to show up when the Senate wanted to investigation yesterday. I don't know yet if he showed up, how he behaved there. Has he evaded answering the awkward questions, how many times he said "still incriminated" as an excuse not to answer, and whether or not he finally blurted out the name of his handler and the real mastermind.

One thing seems certain, according to critics: Malacañang is involved. Not only is it the beneficiary, it is operating behind the scenes to get Bolante off the hook, they say. That explains why the Ombudsman is in no hurry to acquit him. That also explains why the House of Representatives, which is dominated by allies of President Arroyo, has yet to act on the impeachment complaint filed in the Senate for its own investigation, and finally, that explains why some senators who are friendly with the administration do not want the Senate to resume its investigation, even using non-existent "rules" to undercut the other senators.

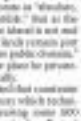
Bolante's testimony, even using non-existent "rules" to undercut the other senators.

Bolante's testimony, even using non-existent "rules" to undercut the other senators.

Boracay conundrum: Who holds title to paradise?

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan



ON TUESDAY THIS WEEK, BORIS JOHNson's South China Morning Post featured a report, "Beaper Boracay ruling, squatters split in unities." Boracay is our country's top tourist destination, attracting more than a half million visitors each year and generating some P270 million in income receipts in 2007 alone. The Philippine Supreme Court has made a decision on one of the Philippine government. We have to abide by the Court's decision.

Here's what's not: that easy to some of the unsuspecting public. Perhaps a single insight the Filipino Supreme, and the Philippine Bar, has come to with reverence and, by translation, see our courts in the same light. If that were so, the Supreme Court's well-reasoned and reasoned decision rarely seems that so. The unanimous decision in the history of the Regional trial of Municipal Boracay v. Mayor Jose E. Yap serves as a fitting cap to the judicial career of Justice Ruben Reyes who retires in barely two months. (Until now, the only other Philippine Supreme Court decision that has made it to the international stage is Minors Oposa v. Factoran, also ponenced last time by this same Justice Reyes.)

The problem lies not in the decision itself but in its context. The long-ago adopted the "Boracay system" of land titling precisely to combine the problems of uncertainty, complexity and cost. That system has been belatedly applied to Boracay decades after it has flourished to a resort heaven. Now instead of comfort, simplicity and efficiency, we find the opposite. Worse, the uncertainty has been exploited by some, with owners of the system handy, in a context where credibility can easily extend things and to appropriately maintain that it takes a court to undo such decisions and, even more lately, by threats of massive demolitions elsewhere in the island.

The Boracay system actually aims to solve the old problem of having to trace ownership through "an unbroken chain of title" back to the earliest land grant to the first owner. The system is built upon a title registered with the state and guaranteed by the state as "absolute, indefeasible, and imprescriptible." But as the Court points out, much of the island is not and cannot be titled, since it is part of the "inalienable lands of the public domain," powers that cannot in the first place be privately owned and sold commercially.

The Court, however, applied that constitutional rule 400 hectares of the 600 which include only those lands that were already titled. It has become technically as "agricultural" and therefore open to private ownership. Heretofore, many of the resort developments lie on such land, and the Court has supported the proper legal ways by which they can preserve their titles. And instead the Court has gone on reconfirming that "lack of title does not necessarily mean lack of right to possess" and that the decision shouldn't spell "their automatic ejectio from the Inalienable lands they possess [not] the laws of their ejectment in forcible entry." At this point, I'm glad I don't have to tell the all that the present claims build no vested right in the properties they possess.

The only challenge now is how to do right by those who have invested honest money in resorts and other businesses in Boracay. The Court has long laid out the legal framework. The problem now belongs to Congress to sum for value the local claimants call a "win-win" solution—to the needs of Court, to enable "private claimants to acquire title to the occupied lots or to compel them from certain requirements under the patrimonial land grant."

Congress has apparently approved a bill by Albay Rep. Florencio Miraflores to fast-track the process of titling. With the SC decision, that process should now address other issues. Promised to the member of determining the last market value (FMV) of the properties at stake. Surely, the current occupants must have "bought" their lands before market values from the speculators rather. And in equity, they have their years taking a risk, no different from any other investment in the country's energy and infrastructure sectors. Claiming title today cannot be cost-free; the state, as the original owner of title, is entitled to be compensated for the FMV of the land.

The great difficult issue in this regard is the extent to which the FMV is determined. Those are no land and has sales, considering that many of the settled decisions on FMV pertain to the transfer of titled property. I believe that those who invested when Boracay was still basically virgin territory deserve some reward for their entrepreneurship, and should be able to get their land at the time of investment. Those who invested later, when the return on investment was a sure thing, are hardly entitled to supervening FMV.

If at all, on this Court itself acknowledges, the legislature is entitled to be compensated for the improvements as "builders in good faith." In that process, Congress must ensure that the present inhabitants of zoning and environmental rules do not continue. Some owners received leases of public beachfronts from Ferdinand Marcos and confirm the "lands" in a manner kind of used between their kisses and the edge of the sea at high tide. The identities are by belatedly completed with sanitary and environmental guidelines on waste disposal.

The issue, apparently, is not so subtle legal issue. Issues of which have been resolved by Justice Reyes from the attention of policy-makers (that remains for the Congress to transact). Our goal is the stability of the investment climate in Boracay. After all, for how long can we remain a tourist paradise if it is before the interlopers?

Comments: rpangalangan@gmail.com

A light that dimmed during the war years

UNDER FIRE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF THE Philippines Jorge B. Vargas Museum until Nov. 30 is the exhibition of the paintings and murals of Fernando de Amorsolo during the war years, from the Japanese invasion of the Philippines in 1941 to the liberation of Manila in 1945.

The exhibits are part of the seven-museum, thematic Bataan exhibition. The exhibition title and, which depicts the life and travails of the Filipino nation and its people as they underwent socio-economic change from the 1920s to the 1960s. As one art critic who wrote a monograph of Amorsolo's works has pointed out, the prodigious works of Amorsolo must be viewed in the context of an artist and his time. Amorsolo's art was shaped by the milieu of events of his time. "The relationship of society and the artist, of socio-historic events and the resulting art are the light and shadow" of Amorsolo's works, according to a critic.

The retrospective is a timely tribute to its artist of Philippine and Japanese descent who broadcasted in sunlight for which Amorsolo's paintings have been noted. As art critic Alfredo Roces succinctly puts it, "It was Amorsolo who discovered the quality of Philippine sunlight." And no Filipino artist captured the incandescence of that sunlight more ably or hugly than Amorsolo. The sunlight and Amorsolo's unmistakable signature to most Filipinos who have seen and admired his works. It permeated most of his works. Through his paintings, Amorsolo "discovered and depicted the true colors of Philippine dusks," says Roces. "He gave the nation a sense of self-reliance and confidence in its ability to say in its simple day-to-day living, and graciousness in the face of reality."

The "sweetness and light" of Amorsolo's works were most exhibited during the 1930s and 1940s, evoking memories of and nostalgia for happier days for many Filipinos decades. Filipinos were looking forward and eagerly awaiting their promised independence and tranquility heralded in many of the sentimentalic, mother-cries, James Lays, said that to

ANALYSIS

Armando Doronila

most Filipinos, Amorsolo "is best known for his scenes of Philippine rural life, a typical Amorsolo brings one back to a time when life was not so blessed, bathed basin with the season's first mangoes, pure and unsophisticated as he hopped at the city side street, when fiesta folk bury produce across a river, when women wash and children splash in are dappled streets—back to a happy time when it was as if the month of May would never end."

Lays said Amorsolo "painted the farm of early years, their simple joys... he did not paint the life of the rich or of the urban people. He painted portraits of the rich and powerful, yes, but not their daily life."

Lays added: "Amorsolo depicts the 1920s and 1930s that to local memory were happy times, a time of plenty and of peace. The Depression reached when bombs dropped on Dec. 8, 1941 and three traumatic years began. After Manila burned in February 1945, our country and people changed forever."

The Vargas Museum holds the most exhibits of Amorsolo's wartime works than the other museum. That is what attracted me most. I wanted to know where Amorsolo's celebrated sunlight went during the war years and whether and how the destruction of Manila and the atrocities of Japanese occupation changed Amorsolo's outlook and style.

Amorsolo painted scenes of the bombing of the Intramuros in late-autumn (1942). Rapid Pursuit on the (1945), and the ruins of Sto. Domingo Church (1946). He sketched in black and white refugees evacuating and people fearing to

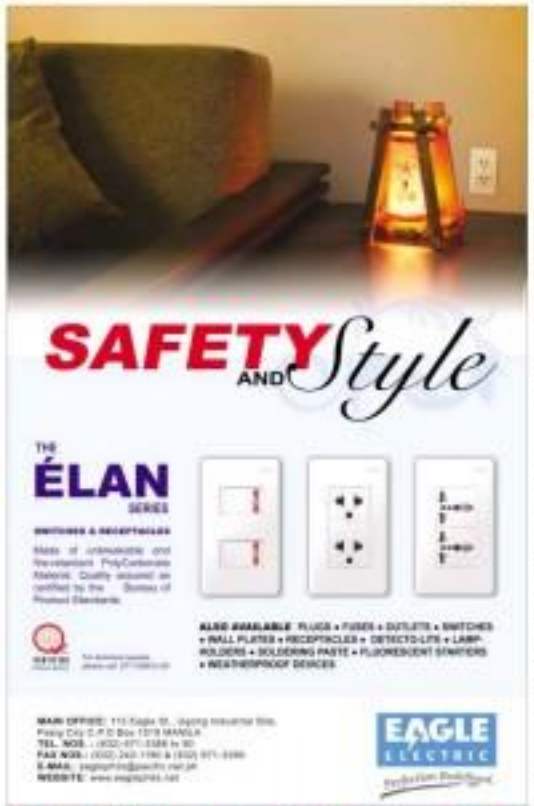
Japanese enemies. Fire and smoke dominate the colors of these paintings, but curiously, in the bombing of the Intramuros, there still is a patch of the sunlight framed by black smoke and red flames in the background.

Amorsolo's works remained unscathed by the ideological propaganda of Japan's exposition of a New Order of Greater East Asia. Its Propaganda Sphere as the Japanese installed an occupation government headed by President Jose P. Laurel. The Japanese invaders sought to create among the conquered Asian nations an empire built on Asian values and repudiating Western influences. The ideology was established by the occupation government as cultural arm of the Co-Prosperity Sphere regime. It aimed to "ensure sounder foundation for the New Philippines by fostering ... the cultural, moral, spiritual and economic advancement of the people."

Paintings by Amorsolo reflected "the ideals contained in the Japanese invaders." According to one critic, "consciously or not, their works (conformed) to programs of cultural rejuvenation." The ideology sought "to emphasize local customs and virtues, strengthen culture, and industrialization."

Interest in Philippine indigenous cultures "was also promoted as seen in portraits of individuals with distinct ethnic features and attire," according to some critics. "Landscape scenes portray lushness and abundance as well as serenity."

In this way, Amorsolo's works were manipulated to make way to the conqueror's ideology



Moro in Malacañang

LETTERS

WHEN DO WE GET TO READ A BANNER headline just like the one we read last Nov. 6 in the Inquirer: "Black in White House"? Indeed, "Change has come to America."

When will that kind of change come to the Philippines, if at all? The answer in that question might be the Filipino saying "pagsisi ng sunod (others do it, I follow)." And to think that we all thought that it was the Philippines which "is a place where all things are possible." Maybe in the negative more than the positive sense.

If we believe the American change from US President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation (for Negro slaves to whites!), then it took 146 years to get a "Black in White House." Still it also take that long before there is a "Moro in Malacañang"? Maybe much longer or probably never! At least, in the case of the Emancipation Proclamation, it was not declared "unconstitutional," unlike the initialed but unsigned Memorandum of Agreement on Ancestral Domain.

Also, it had to take a Civil War to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation. Must it take the same for the emancipation of the Moro people? Or can it be done through peace negotiations? Actually, the Emancipation Proclamation did not end slavery in America—that was achieved by the passage of the 13th Amendment to the US Constitution in 1865. It looks like the Moro emancipation will "require amendments to the existing legal framework" and "effecting the necessary changes" thereto.

Ah, the American dream of the Filipino. (Sin, of course, extends to of Filipino leader (and later President) Manuel L. Quezon's famous non-conduit line: "I would rather live under a government run like hell by Filipinos than a government run like heaven by the Americans." In reverse so which, many ordinary Moros are now saying, "I would rather live under a government run like hell by Moros than a government run like hell by Filipinos."

—SULPICIO M. SANTOS JR.
10 Hartpence St., Cubao, QC

Most heartfelt thanks from kidnap victim's kin

AFTER FOUR MONTHS OF ABSENTE MEplaced woes, doubts and a few moments of hopelessness, around 10 p.m. of Nov. 7, 2008, a simple cellphone call brought complete relief to our family and turned our hopeless world upright. Precious Feliciano, my cousin who had been a captive of the Abu Sayyaf since early June this year, was finally released.

To say that this ordeal was an exasperating one would not even be enough to describe the value of all the efforts and sacrifices everyone made to help our family complete the last piece of the missing puzzle. It was such a long and frustrating wait and we are just so thankful that friends, even strangers, struggled with our family to get us to the end of it. We hope that by this letter, we would be able to extend our deepest gratitude to those who accompanied us through our tortuous experience. You are all remember in this letter, but your words and deeds of support are deeply engraved in our hearts.

To the people of the Inquirer who covered the story from the beginning, thank you. The members(belief, newsgathered) articles about kidnapping in Mindanao raised the nation's awareness of the problem and helped us get the help we needed.

Special thanks go to Vice Gov. Al Rasbeed Jakaldani of Sasilan, the head of the crisis management committee who negotiated the release of Precious. Thank you for enduring the long and persistent phone calls and for the time and effort you invested to put our hearts at ease and make our family whole again. We will forever be indebted to you for your generosity, credibility and most of all, your humanity.

To everyone else who prayed and stayed with our family throughout this ordeal, we will forever be grateful.

Indeed, birth can and does have mountains. If there is one thing we all learned from this tumultuous experience, it is that we all should not lose faith in the goodness of humanity and in the power of God to turn things around and make them work our way. Hope may be dangling on a string, but wait for it long enough and it might just fall right into your hands.

—RAHILA HAMILLE FELICIANO PALAD
rhafamela@yahoo.com.ph

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Across the NATION

DILG won't force suspended Bataan governor to leave his office

CITY OF LAS PIÑAS/MANDAUE—THE DEpartment of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) will not order the police to forcibly remove suspended Bataan Gov. Enrique Garcia Jr., should he fail to honor a well-supported deadline to vacate his office at the provincial capitol today.

Ronaldo Puno, DILG director in Central Luzon, said he would no reason to do that since the notice for the immediate suspension order by the Office of the Ombudsman on Garcia and three other officials had been rescinded, served on Tuesday.

He said the four officials have been effectively suspended.

Bataan had also barriers in Vice Governor Jesuflo Ramon and Board Member Elbra Pascual Jr. as acting Balanga governor and acting vice governor, respectively, on Tuesday night.

Ramon and Pascual have held offices in their houses in respect of Garcia's 15-day deadline to leave the capitol.

Garcia has been standing up the governor's office at the Balanga Bayan, a building across the provincial capitol in Balanga City.

On Thursday, Garcia did not reply to questions through phone calls and a text message, asking if he would indeed keep the Friday deadline. All he said was that he has remained in his office.

Both Garcia and his petition before the Court of Appeals, seeking a temporary restraining order on the Ombudsman's suspension order. The appellate justices in the appellate court had inhibited in the case due to personal reasons, prompting the court to raffle the case thrice.

Garcia had told his supporters on Monday that he would leave the capitol on Friday only to embrace the action of the CA.

His suspension stemmed from a complaint for graft and plunder involving the alleged illegal disposition of P1.021-million worth of properties of the Bataan Export Products Inc. in Orani, in 2005. Sweden Ozaña, Inquirer Central Luzon

Cebu traders start laying off workers amid global crisis

By Kristine L. Alave

EXPORT COMPANIES IN the region are feeling the pinch of the global recession and women workers are taking the first hit, a labor group said yesterday.

Bai Ida Mangigueo (BM) said layoffs have started in the processing zones like those in Cebu province. It said that some companies in Cebu have reduced their workforce or working hours, due to the slow demand from the United States and Europe.

Senator Magsaysay, PM chairperson, said data from their Cebu members foiled Labor Secretary Marianito Roque's claim that Philippine companies have not retrenched workers due to the financial crisis.

"The Department of Labor is surely looking the other way. Labor Secretary Roque, but since, but he does not want to see," he said.

"While government and business unpick about the difference between a slowdown and a recession, the initial effects of the global economic crisis are already being felt by workers in the export processing zones," he added.

PM labor officials in Mactan Export Processing Zone and casualty-industrial sectors said thousands of workers, mostly women who work in garment firms, have been affected by the recession.

Most of those displaced were women workers.

Greg Junjuco, PM-Cebu chairperson, said 500 workers were displaced when garment firm Allstarcode Industries Inc. shut down. He said the regional office of the labor department had no clue on this month's temporary closure.

According to PM, the other companies in Cebu that cut down their working hours or number of workers were:

• Cosmos Manufacturing Inc., a furniture factory in Minglanilla City that exports to United States, Canada and Europe. PM said 200 workers were affected when it ordered its working days to four instead of five last October.

• Infinity Industries, a furniture factory in Angeles, Mandaue City. It shut down last month, displacing 200 employees.

• Gleeful del Sole, a furniture factory in Mandaue City that sells to local and foreign markets, has reduced a seven-month period by cutting down its working days to four from six. About 500 workers will be affected.

• Del Fa, a lamp shade factory located in Cebu, is leaving the Mactan Export Processing Zone (Mepz) for the town of Cordova. The relocation will affect 200 workers.

• MetMan/Smith, a garment factory in Mepz that laid off 50 workers who were retrenched last October.

• Seasonal, a furniture and wood casting factory in Mandaue City closed last September, displacing 60 employees.

PM said the government should prepare a package to help the workers who will be jobless because of the recession.

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Days numbered for unlicensed passenger boats

By Daniel Israel Sinay
Reporter Visayas

ILOILO CITY—THE MARITIME INDUSTRY Authority (Marina) is putting to rest doubt on the continued operation of unregistered motorized passenger boats.

Ma. Elena Bautista, assistant undersecretary for maritime affairs, said Marina would stop the operations of those vessels following the deaths of 14 people in the sinking of a boat that was not registered to carry passengers.

Bautista directed Marina officials in Eastern Visayas to work out an agreement with the local Philippine Coast Guard, Philippine National Police Maritime Group and local government units to stop unregistered vessels from ferrying passengers.

Joseph Noel Pedro, senior shipping operations specialist of Marina, quoted a board directive order from Bautista as saying Presidential Management Assistant revoked the operations of unregistered passenger ferries stopped.

Pedro said the directive came in the aftermath of Typhoon Quinta, which killed 14 persons after MB Rolly capsized in the municipal waters of Concepcion, some 113 km north of Iloilo City.

Authorities found MB Rolly had no clearance and carried no life jackets or rafts.

Pedro, however, pointed to the Coast Guard as the agency responsible for ensuring safety at sea.

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Workers facing raps say Korean bosses abusive

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Two Koreans foremen of Hanjin Heavy Industries and Construction Philippines Inc. have filed a case for physical injuries against eight Filipino welders at the company's shipyard in Subic, Zambales.

While the case against is for minor, it could mirror the growing dissatisfaction among Filipino workers in the shipyard with the way they were being treated by their Korean supervisors.

Kim Jun Jeon and Ri Jung Hong filed the complaints at the Olongapo City prosecutor's office on Wednesday.

They claimed that Albert Mangubat, Reynaldo Alipio, Julius Cao, Ross Manangan, Wadon Wejica, Lorjim Gonzales, Ernie Lapuz and Carlo Leo Castillo beat them up at 7:40 a.m. on Nov. 12.

The eight workers, all employed at the machinery department, are natives of Masbate, Samar, Zamboles and Iloilo.

Detention

Records showed that Hanjin's security department turned them over to the police 12 hours later. The police detained them at the Subic station and released them at 7 p.m. on Tuesday.

Castillo said he and his co-workers said they only fought back because they felt they were being maltreated.

"Dinapuan na ho kami. Ayaw nang tumanggap sila kahit kasama mali lang. Tinakbuhan nila kami sa hallways, aralpan, sabunan.

THE HANJIN shipyard during its construction. The Korean firm Hanjin Heavy Industries and Construction Co. signed a $1 billion deal with Subic to build and operate the shipyard, touted as be the biggest ever in the country when its an 2.2-million square meters of space in the former US naval base.

in (The patience has run out. Every day they beat us for minor mistakes. They knock on our helmet, kick us or curse us)," said Castillo.

The case was the fourth beating incident at the shipyard this year over alleged maltreatment by foreign supervisors.

Jeon and Gong denied maltreating the workers and said they were on morning discipline during work hours.

A Hanjin official, who declined to be named because he was not authorized to give an official pronouncement, corroborated the incident.

He said it should not have happened, saying this could have been due to cultural differences.

Reports from the People's Task Force on Hanjin and Subic Bay Inc. showed at least five more filed against Filipino supervisors this year.

Dominga Bartolito, 46, owed four Chinese supervisors who allegedly strangled him on Aug. 13.

Daniel Lumicisa, 30, filed a case for physical injuries against Park Chang Ho in October.

Carlos de la Cruz complained of damage to property and physical injuries against Hanjin security manager Ji Ho Jin.

Accidents

The barangay council of Cawag filed a case against Hanjin general manager Byeong Jung Ju for allegedly enabling Jin who did not appear in mediation despite several notices.

Aside from the cases of physical violence, the shipyard has been haunted by the deaths of several workers in work-related incidents.

The SBMA has ordered an investigation of the fatal accidents at the Hanjin shipyard even as it penalized the South Korean firm for safety lapses.

SBMA Administrator Armand Arreza was quoted earlier as saying the agency's Occupational Health and Safety Office conducted a full investigation of the accidents.

Roberto Dinglas, Inquirer Central Luzon

NEWSBRIEFS

■ BATAAN CITY

6 dead in Capiz fire

ROXAS CITY—Police are looking into the cause of a fire that razed a house in Cogon Norte in Dapdap early yesterday.

Capiz Provincial Fire Marshal Senior Inspector Rodel Dela Cruz identified the dead as house owner Virginia Francisco, 68; Joan Francisco, 31; Claudio Son, 64; Ivan Mae Cordovero, 15; Charmaine Andrin, 15; and Michelle Gamboa, 13.

Cordovero, Andrin and Gamboa were all students of the Cogon Integrated National High School who were temporarily staying at the house of Francisco.

They were sleeping on the second floor of the house when the fire occurred at about 1:30 a.m.

The victims' relatives identified them through their jewelry.

Adam Cabling, Inquirer Visayas

■ LEGAZPI CITY

Rebs burn another cell site

ANOTHER cell site of Globe Telecoms, which has consistently refused to pay so-called revolutionary taxes, was torched by suspected members of the New People's Army at about 8:15 p.m. Wednesday, a police official said Thursday.

Supt. Joel L. Capinpin, chief of the Tabaco City Police Office, said the cell site in Barangay Buenavista 1 here from the Tabaco police station and city proper.

The attack destroyed the facility, said Capinpin.

Aaron Calvin Subia, Inquirer Southern Luzon

■ SORSOGON CITY

Basares Sr., 61

EDGAR O. Basares Sr., a print and broadcast journalist in Sorsogon and Albay for 39 years, died on Nov. 6.

Basares, 61, also a lawyer and teacher, taught taxation, labor law, public international law and legal ethics at the Bicolandscape College of Law in Daraga.

He was buried Nov. 11 at Balete's Diocesan cemetery after Mass at the Immaculate Conception Parish church.

Roy Gonzalo, Inquirer Southern Luzon

■ CAMP VICENTE LIM

Cops nab gun maker

POLICE on Tuesday arrested what they said was a gun maker for crime syndicates.

The alleged gun maker, identified as Peter Ian Hernia, 31, was caught with firearms and ammunition in his home at Nos. 142 and 144 San Isidro Village at around 8 a.m. by members the Regional Criminal Investigation and Detection (RCID) unit.

A search warrant was issued by Judge Oscar Mangrobang, of Regional Trial Court Branch 22 in Imus, Cavite.

Police said they suspect Sarmiento was supplying guns for criminals in areas around Makati, Batangas.

Sarmiento is being held for illegal possession of firearms and ammunition.

Alarice Cinco, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Exec says Subic helped reduce jobless rates

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—A TOP OFFICIAL of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) said the agency's job-generation programs have lowered the unemployment rate in Central Luzon.

Citing figures from the Department of Labor and Employment's Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics, SBMA Administrator Armand Arreza said the region's unemployment rate decreased from 11.5 percent in 2007 to 9.6 percent in July this year.

General Luzon's underemployment figures went down from 14.1 percent in 2007 to 9.2 percent in July.

"I think our efforts in attraction labor pays are now gradually paying off," Arreza said, noting that the SBMA administration's efforts are not only aimed at attracting new investments but also addressing labor issues in the area vital in the businesses here.

Job matching

Arreza said the agency is accomplishing this by facilitating regular dialogues to address unemployment, and promoting skills matching and industrial peace in the region.

Since 2005, the SBMA has been forging links with DOLE, Commission on Higher Education, Technical Education and Skills Development Agency, Public Employment Service Office and the Regional Development Council to start a series of conferences on job-skills matches to help address labor concerns in Central Luzon.

The services sector continues to represent the largest segment of Subic's workforce, comprising 26,012 workers or 43.17 percent.

Latest SBMA data showed that shipbuilding and marine-related industries now employ 26,480 or 43.68 percent of the workers in Subic.

The maritime sector is followed by the manufacturing sector, with 14,804 workers or 37.74 percent; and remainder, 5,628 workers or 9.75 percent.

Services

The rest of the workforce is composed mostly of domestic helpers and caretakers.

Arreza said the entry of big tourism projects would most likely keep the services sector as the leading employer here in the next few years.

"Subic is basically service-oriented, as no more industries locate here—whether in maritime or manufacturing sectors—we expect a corresponding increase in jobs in the services sector," he said.

Aside from Subic, Arreza's high-end resort complex is to be built by a Korean-led consortium, nine other new investors this year would also be labor-intensive, he said.

Robert Garcia, Inquirer Central Luzon

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DEPARTMENT STORE & SUPERMARKET

30 most developed nations in recession

Front page A1

summit of the Group of 20 (G-20) industrial- and fast-emerging nations in Washington on Friday.

The OECD says economic output in its 30 member countries declining by 0.2 percent in 2008, with the United States contracting by 0.9 percent, Japan by 0.1 percent and the eurozone by 0.5 percent.

The latest economic projections represent a radical downgrade since the last one in June, when the organization foresaw a 1.7-percent growth in the OECD area in 2009 and indicated that the worst of the financial crisis may have passed.

Germany

The OECD forecasts reinforced fears the world is plunging into a painful downturn and overshadowed the latest batch of bleak economic data.

Germany announced on Thursday that its economy—the largest in Europe—had tipped into recession for the first time in five years. Economic output contracted by 0.5 percent in the July-September period, following a 0.6-percent decline in the second quarter.

Negative growth in the third quarter was accentuated by a sharp decline in exports, which have powered the performance of the German economy over the past several years.

"We are going to have to face up to a very difficult and long-lasting economic crisis," Germany's Deputy Economy Minister Peer Steinbrueck told Reuters.

Analysts agreed with that grim forecast.

"The head winds of the financial crisis and the global economic slowdown are blowing right in the face of the German economy," said Carsten Brzeski of ING Financial Markets.

"Even more worrying, the full impact of the financial crisis still has to unfold," Brzeski said. "If you think today's numbers are already bad, just wait for the next quarter."

China

China, the world's fastest growing economy, also felt the ill effects of a global slowdown. Its annual industrial output growth dropped to 8.2 percent in October, its weakest showing since October 2001.

Premier Wen Jiabao acknowledged that the impact of the worst global crisis in 60 years on China was "much worse than many had expected."

Following a Wall Street sell-off on Wednesday, stock markets consolidated in Asia. Tokyo shares slid 5.3 percent after a leading member of Japan's central bank said Asia's largest economy faced a long slump.

Stocks in Sydney ended down 3.8 percent at a four-year low, while shares in Hong Kong lost 5.18 percent. But China was a rare bright spot. Its shares ending up 3.3 percent in hope that Beijing's $586-billion stimulus package would include big spending on housing and railway construction.

Europe, Kuwait

Europe's leading stock markets were all down on the morning of Thursday trade. A day after the Bank of England said Britain was probably already in recession, London's FTSE 100 index dropped 1 percent, adding to the gloom was the move by British telecoms company BT Group to cut 10,000 jobs at home and overseas.

The Paris benchmark fell 1.17 percent, but the Frankfurt index did only 0.46 percent despite the announcements that Germany had recorded its second consecutive quarter of negative growth.

Russian stock markets were shut down less than 60 minutes after opening as blue chips plummeted 11 percent. The sharp drops reflect investors' deepening fears over how hard Russia's economy is being hit by the global crisis and rapid fall in oil prices.

In Kuwait City, a court ordered the closure of the country's stock exchange until Nov. 17. The court order stemmed from a lawsuit filed by two brokers who were concerned about the steep falls in the Kuwait Stock Exchange—the Gulf Arab region's second largest bourse.

America, Australia

Most gains were from consumer-related companies weighed on Dow stocks overnight with the Dow Jones industrial average falling 4.7 percent—its third consecutive day of losses. US stock index futures were narrowly mixed, indicating volatile trading on Thursday.

US oil prices fell in a 22-month low below $65 a barrel after the US Department of Energy said on Wednesday it expected America's consumption of petroleum next year to drop more severely than any time since 1982.

In a bid to bolster stocks, Australia imposed a permanent ban on so-called naked short-selling—the practice whereby hedge funds sell shares they neither own nor have borrowed at a high price in the hope of quickly buying them at a lower price in a falling market.

The fall in the prices of stocks and commodities was triggered by an announcement that Washington's $700-billion bailout plan would no longer include buying up toxic mortgage assets from troubled banks.

US Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson said the $700 billion would be better spent on cash injections for struggling banks and helping shore up consumer credit markets. The shift from rescue acknowledged the crisis had deepened since the controversial rescue plan was approved by the US Congress in early October.

'Situation worsened'

"The facts changed and the situation worsened," he said.

The raging crisis is rooted in so-called subprime US loans—mortgages to buy homes and other forms of credit extended to consumers with shaky credit histories. The loans were repackaged and sold to banks and investors around the world.

As the economy slowed and house prices declined, defaults on those loans mounted, sending shock waves through the global financial system.

Governments around the world have pledged around $4.6 trillion to bank bailouts, credit guarantees and fiscal spending to contain the damage from the financial turmoil.

Leaders of the G-20 economies are meeting in Washington on Friday to decide on the next steps in tackling the crisis.

Despite the gloomy outlook for its economy, Japan is prepared to offer foreign reserves worth up to $100 billion to the IMF if the Washington-based financial institution needs extra funds to help emerging economies. Prime Minister Taro Aso will make the proposal at the G-20 summit, according to a Reuters source.

"Investors are now looking to the G-20 summit this weekend, with hopes of some further policy action," Patrick Bennett, Asia FX and rates strategist at Societe Generale, wrote in a note. *Reports from Reuters, AP and AFP*

CHINESE WORKERS make umbrellas in a factory in Jinjiang, Fujian province on Tuesday. China's factory output abruptly weakened in October; the government said, as Premier Wen Jiabao warned the impact of the global crisis was "much worse" than expected.

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GE imagination at work

GMA won't resume talks until rogue MILF rebs under control

MEET AND GREET President Macapagal-Arroyo and US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice have a cordial chat after the opening of the UN General Assembly. Behind Rice is Philippine envoy to the United Nations Hilario Davide. MALACAÑANG PHOTO

From page A1

negotiations."

In a statement posted on the OIC website on Thursday, Ilusmoglu warned that continued violence would strengthen "radicalized elements who seek to abort the peace process and fuel extremist feelings."

Not at gunpoint

The government distanced its peace panel after MILF commanders attacked civilians and pillaged communities in central Mindanao in August in the aftermath of the scuttling of a deal on an expanded Bangsamoro homeland.

The military subsequently executed a counteroffensive. Three months of clashes have left more than 100 soldiers dead and 600,000 displaced.

Mr Arroyo has declared that her administration would not be forced to negotiate with the MILF rebels at gunpoint. She also adopted a new policy in dealing with the insurgency. The rebels list disarmament, demobilization and rehabilitation, which officials said focuses on dialogues with communities.

The President acknowledged in her UN speech that an intelligent dialogue was crucial to achieving peace in Mindanao, torn by a separatist insurgency over the past four decades.

No alternative to peace

"There is no alternative to peace. We are working to reach as much progress as possible on peace within the parameters set out by moderate Muslim communities," she said.

Mr Arroyo indicated that she was expecting a more active role of religious leaders, specifically the Bishop and Ulama Conference, in the peace effort.

"Religious leaders can speed up dialogue and reconciliation. They are our partners in the peace-making process," she said.

The President also said that Middle Eastern and Islamic countries could play a new role in resuming the stalled peace process with the MILF.

"We all want to see peace and prosperity in the Philippines," Mr Arroyo said, pointing out that the Middle East had been supporting the government's reachable dialogue with the rebels.

"Through interfaith dialogue under the leadership of the Bishop and Ulama Conference, through global engagement with our largest possible international involvement, including the UN, Saudi Arabia, Brunei, Indonesia, Libya, Malaysia and others in the Organization of the Islamic Conference, Spain, Sweden and the EU, the US, Japan, Australia and other bilateral ODA (official development assistance) partners and through economic assistance at the community level, we are confident that peace will happen," she said.

Visit to Lanao

Maintaining optimism in Central Mindanao, she said it was the President's duty to "walk the talk" in the context of peace negotiations and inevitable disruptions.

In Nicaragua, Mr Arroyo will inspect the construction of a P30-million farm-to-market road and distribute relief packages, farmers' corn seeds and medicines.

If the MILF welcomed the OIC's call for the resumption of peace talks, it must put on its earlier decision not to return to the negotiating table unless the administration signed the Kinigamos deal.

"As far as the MILF is concerned that is our position. We need an international guarantor because we lost faith in the government. They killed the peace process," MILF chief negotiator Mohagher Iqbal said in a phone interview with reporters at Camp Aguinaldo.

26 rebels killed

On the battlefront, the military yesterday reported that at least 26 MILF rebels had been killed in fresh air strikes in Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao since Monday.

A 17-year-old woman, Herminia Kasedi, also was wounded on Wednesday in an encounter at Barangay Datu Intan in Mihapsay, North Cotabato, said Senior Insp. Fernando Gabico. Mihapsay town police chief Sheriff was about to Orr with her family when the war hit.

In her speech, Mr Arroyo acknowledged the key role played by religious leaders, specifically the Bishop and Ulama Conference, in speeding up dialogue and reconciliation between the government and the MILF.

"The Bishop and Ulama Conference is our format for interfaith dialogue. It is a movement of Catholic and Christian bishops and Muslim ulamas organized to promote mutual understanding of faith and religious formation," she said.

GMA reaps plaudits

The President earned plaudits from some world leaders, including US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Israeli President Shimon Peres and Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari, among others, who congratulated her after her speech.

"There was unanimous praise for her. They came personally to her at the hall," Press Secretary Jesse Dumia later told reporters at the Four Seasons Hotel here (New York). "She carried very well."

The National leader expressed interest in the Philippines' implementation of interfaith dialogue by the country's peace process during Mr Bush's meeting with Mr Arroyo on the sidelines of the General Assembly.

"They want our experience to interfaith dialogue. So the President instructed me to get the Bishop and Ulama Conference to also link up with the Protestants and share some experiences with them," Dumia said.

With reports from Jocelyn R. Uy and Christine F. Reyes in Manila and Jeoffrey Maitem, Edwin Fernandez and Abs. Casilao Rodriguez, Inquirer Mindanao, AP/AFP and Reuters

President asks Saudi prince to stay execution of 3 Filipinos in Jeddah

From page A1

A court sentenced the three to die by beheading last year for the killings of Filipinos Rene Lanfranqui, Jovanelo Ricardo and Jimmy Rivera in April 2006. Jeddah Appeals Court upheld the sentence on Sept. 15.

The appellate court also affirmed the conviction of Nasrudin Silimon, Elmar Evangelio Dimaano, Datoc Saudin, and Joel Talandong to eight years in prison for covering up the crime.

MEETING OF MINDS President Macapagal-Arroyo meets with Science and Technology Advisory Council (STAC). From left are Ambassador Marciano Paynor, Danny Baja, Diosdado Banatao, Dennis Fernandez, and Bruno Danao, STAC advisory at the Waters, San Francisco. MALACAÑANG PHOTO

Zubiri bangs fist: I'm no grateful stooge of Palace

By Inquirer A1

OPINIONATED Sen. Miguel Zubiri denounces one editorial in the Inquirer for calling him a "Congressman in a pink to strike the truth" at the Senate probe of the fertilizer fund scam. NONOY LACZA

it concerns matters of great importance, my emotional Zubiri denounced the Inquirer for its two editorial pieces which came out on Nov. 3 and 12.

"I considerate mali: mali by omission, mali by others," he said.

Zubiri did not name the issues, but not holding copies of the two editorials containing the assailed editorial pieces which, he said, described him as a "gumutod stooge" (Nov. 3) and pictured him in the subsequent editorial as a "congressman in a pink to strike the truth" in a plot to stifle the Senate's proceedings.

Both editorial pieces dished out the P728-million fertilizer fund scam believed to have been engineered by former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-Joc" Bolante.

Zubiri denied "trying to manipulate a friendly climate to the investigation" as the Nov. 12 editorial indicated.

"That is a lie," he said, banging his fist on the table.

Chance to reply

He challenged the Inquirer to give him a chance to reply by granting his manifestation "word for word so that it is not taken out of that context."

"I wish and pray that the truth will come out and justice will prevail and for the heavens fall where they may," he said.

Zubiri said he had never filed a resolution, or written a letter, supporting Bolante, as alleged by others. Also, Peter Cayetano "is not that close."

What he said when interviewed by reporters during a budget hearing last month was that "he would rather see a judicial seizure of assets, as justice will continue and prevail," but "it was a mere opinion."

"It is to unfair, especially calling me a stooge," he said, calling attention to the fact that he had opposed the Palace stand on several issues such as the now scrapped memorandum of understanding between the government and Moro rebels and Charter change by constituent assembly.

"Who are they to call me a grateful stooge? My gulay, when that newspaper was attacked during the ati-politiko, I stood by them and rallied against the threat at the time," Zubiri said, referring to the attempt of the Estrada administration to cripple the Inquirer by ordering advertisers not to place ads in the newspaper.

The Bukidnon senator denied that the third district of Bukidnon has been neglected during the 13th Congress but received a reported P5 billion in fertilizer subsidy.

He said what his district received was a meager nearly P1 million after he refused the five billion subsidy being offered by the Department of Agriculture in 2005 since his constituents did not need it.

Zubiri said the project was "properly documented through the right agencies" and completed in 2006. An audit by the Commission on Audit did not find any irregularity he said.

Bolante's list

During the hearing, Cayetano clarified that there were several lists containing the names of proposed Unconditional, pending to the Feb. 3 and 11, 2004, Iligal Special Allocation Release Order) the said amendments in connection with the P728-million Glutenong Manggang fertilizer gate.

In his Bolante dubbed as "Super" the Feb. 11 list of proponents, but recognized the Feb. 3 list since it contained his signature and hologram of the agriculture department.

Bolante also named Cayetano (then representative of Taguig-Pateros), Sen. Benigno Aquino III (then representative of Tarlac), former Quezon City Rep. Ma. Theresa Belmonte, Bataan Rep. Florencio Abad and Makati Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr., saying neither the Inquirer nor their families got involved in the fertilizer funds.

"The Feb. 3, 2004 lists was accompanied by other letters that code and a signature of undersecretary Bolante. Meay the COA completed that I only the list of actual beneficiaries," Cayetano said.

The congressman showed that nine proponents did not receive a subsidy, while others were not on the list but actually received money.

On the Feb. 11 lists, "which many people assumed was also for fertilizer and other inputs because it has the same nomenclature, but now being examined, is wasn't used for inputs. It was used not for purchase, but operational expenses, rentals, etc., "he said.

The Feb. 11 lists had an attachment containing the nature of congressmen "but no signatures or anything."

Bolante is saying that there's no basis because that's bogus. That's the one submitted to the Ombudsman, and that's the one being brought up by Sen. (Panfilo) Lacson, and (Iloilo's other Congressman Locsin, Defensor and myself are found," said Cayetano.

Cayetano said that although the Feb. 11 lists was genuine, "the attachment" on the list of proponents was not.

Feb. 11 list bogus

At the beginning of the eight hour hearing, Locsin inquired about the Feb. 11 lists worth P1.3 billion.

He said he was "not casting aspersions and giving any kind of indictment" on Cayetano.

But the latter said he would not admit himself because the agriculture department had fabricated the Feb. 11 list, "and to my knowledge, my district did not get any."

Man in hot seat keeps cool as tempers flare

By Inquirer A1

IN RESIDENCE The Senate allowed Bolante to return home after the marathon Senate hearing where he was the lone witness. After an absence of almost two years, he's once back home in Ayala Alabang. But he remains under Senate custody. NONOY LACZA

terday took me his stenographer/ secretary/nurse and frustration and even was a prize—permission to go home.

At the inquiry conducted by the Senate blue ribbon committee into the P728-million fertilizer fund scam postponed, Sen. Madrigal Defensor Santiago (ophtol and opaculist), Senate President Pro Tempore Bragger Estrada talked tough, and Sen. Francis Escudero waited in vi- bance as Bolante suddenly gulped down his medicine during quest hearing.

Sen. Mar Roxas also stepped on the Senate agriculture undersecretary and lapsed into prayer to talk upon hearing him claim that it was he who had released the fertilizer fund.

Through all this, Bolante nodded on each statement that Leah Navarro, convenor of the Black and White Movement, described as "nonsensical."

"They're trying [to get answers] but Joc-Joc is dancing circles around them," Navarro told the hearing.

'Paderong'

Prior to questions, Bolante was Roxas, who at various times expressed disbelief at the witness' answers, particularly when he insisted that President Maragal-Arroyo had no hand in the release of the fund.

Roxas said Bolante's claim was "hard to swallow."

"Napakapadrino ng mga tao sa Kongreso ang ang budget department ang nag-release nitong P728-million [Ang] sa kapasidad

Heart attack

In his customary feisty fashion, bludgeon and what else had heard so far had brought her to the brink of a heart attack.

She reminded Bolante for his "unparalleled audacity" to assist the P728-million fertilizer fund.

She questioned him on his relationship with Fertian Philippines Inc., the sole supplier of fertilizer in the program, and abruptly berated him when he threatened her colleague Lacson.

She flared up when Bolante claimed that he did not implement the fertilizer program, and that he, on the authorization of then Agriculture Secretary Cito Lorenzo, "just downloaded the money from the computer files to field units."

Sparrings became even more incendiary when Bolante said he did not know whether the purchase of the fertilizer were facilitated by administration of St. Luke's Medical Center immediately upon his arrival on Oct. 28, Bolante said his family had made arrangement with his longtime cardiologist.

"What did your cardiologist do?" Estrada said.

"At least, your honor, they found that I have a heart," the witness said.

Bolante surprised Escudero and the gallery when he suddenly took his medicine as he was being questioned.

Escudero had three pax asked the witness whether he was blaming local government units for the secondary procurement of fertilizer.

After Bolante was done taking his medicine, Escudero asked him whether it was something to improve his memory.

Bolante replied that the first six medical offices could check the medicine he took.

Following hours the gallery, Senators and the did not think the session had been able to "piss [Bolante] down to make a single admission about anything."

But the senate close that the was making her observations only in the hearing, when only a few senators had questioned the witness.

She said at press time that she was still waiting for the rest of the other senators, including Panfilo Lacson.

Roxas tries his best

"What he's saying is exposed all [the Manalo] on the shoulders of Cito Lorenzo, who is not here... It's convenient to use someone who is not here to try to make himself ... like other and opulent," Navarro said of Bolante.

"I wish the senators would shelve only his answers and cite that they were nonsensical," she said.

Navarro observed that Bolante was answering questions only "a long, rambling thing, and before you know it, you've forgotten the questions ..."

She wondered what was going on.

"What's the political stand? Some circumstance? Did they use pressure? I can only say this: once we're halfway through," she said.

She added that of the senators, Roxas had tried his best to pin Bolante.

Lucky man

Asked about Bolante's constant nonresponses at the hearing, Navarro said the witness had "two years to figure it out, two weeks to get good coaching."

"Your can make you do anything," she said.

Navarro also said Bolante was a "lucky man" because the senators had resumed hearings [a one.

"Sen Lozada can't live in his house," she pointed out, referring to the whistle-blower in the national broadband scandal.

"What a lucky man ... That's what you get when you have the President on your side," Navarro said.

Why (mis)use of P728-M . . .

By Inquirer A1

and the fertilizer were purchased from exclusive distributors, according to the DOA. The concessions noted that other brands of fertilizer "with equivalent composition" could have been obtained at lower prices.

NOT PLANTING SEASON The fertilizer fund was released in the months of February to May 2004, the two planting seasons in the country and when fertilizer are of no use. Planting time in the country starts in November.

COST TIME...SEE TIME. The fund was a single appropriation meant only for 2004—in the months of the election season in particular. The huge expense has not been repeated since.

UNIFORM AMOUNTS. The special administration order (Sao) specified distribution of uniform amounts, regardless of which congressional district or local unit the proponents represented, whether the same were close or were producing local government units (LGUs) or not. Even legislative districts in the cities of Metro Manila were included in the list.

WRONG FERTILIZER Foliar fertilizer was supplied. The type of fertilizer is appropriate for ornamental plants and not for rice.

GROSS OVERPRICING. The fertilizers supplied were grossly overpriced. Ordinary bikes for 50 kilos, for example, was overpriced by almost P500 to 1,200 pesos.

WATERED DOWN. The unapplied fertilizers were not even pure fertilizer but were diluted with water.

GHOST SUPPLIERS. Transactions had ghost and questionable suppliers. Alcasid Marketing, an identified supplier, was reported to have a telephone number even according to a vegetable mill in Caloocan City. A witness stated that Fedsan Philippines Inc., one of the largest suppliers, was originally a trader in supplier and began supplying fertilizer only in 2003.

GHOST RECIPIENTS. The transactions also had ghost recipients. According to the COA, of the 13 nongovernment organizations that entered into agreements covering the fertilizer fund, only five NGOs were found to have legitimate addresses.

CLUELESS DEPARTMENT Nobody in the Department of Agriculture knows of the existence of the farm inputs and implements program (the fertilizer fund was said to form a part of this program, "to assist LGUs in boosting their agricultural production and increasing farmers' income"). In the files of the department itself, there was not a single document that would support the existence of such a program. When asked, the department could not identify where the funds were appropriated, by whom and who disbursed it.

FUND WAS 'BOO HAS.' The fertilizer requirements for 2003 were only 720,813 tons for the entire Philippines. Corresponding adjustments would not have reached the amount released for the year 2004.

Source: Senate agriculture committee's Committee Report No. 13, 2005; COA Report on the Audit of the P728-million Fertilizer Management Act (GMA) Farm Input Fund

Elize Victoria, Inquirer Research

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UPSIZE	
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30	3
50	5
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Aplus METRO
Editor Boots G. Dipasupil

Cops eye 12 known felons in UP heist

By Julie M. Aurelio

POLICE INVESTIGATORS ARE LOOKING AT THE possible involvement of 12 known felons in the bloody Monday bank heist inside the University of the Philippines Diliman campus in Quezon City.

Supt. Franklin Mateo Bituin, chief of the Quezon City Police District's Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit, said the suspects could be former members of notorious robbery groups.

But he did not identify the suspects in order not to jeopardize the investigation of the incident where two security guards and a bank teller of the Philippine Veterans Bank were killed.

Bituin said former members of big crime syndicates like Kaintong Batobalog, Wilson Muray, Sanguang Colasgasa, and Abayon Dead Island (their gangs).

"We are still trying to verify through witnesses if the 12 were seen at the UP Bahay ng Alumni during the robbery. Then, we can establish their link to the crime," he added.

Bituin said his men were showing photographs to witnesses.

He said four to six armed men shot the victims while others could have stayed as lookouts or "spotters."

"Intelligence units from all over the National Capital Region Police Office are collecting information that we hope will lead to the arrest of these suspects," the official said.

On Wednesday, Chief Insp. Eduardo Figueroa of the Theft and Robbery Unit, said they identified a woman who could have been a spotter. She was seen calmly walking away from the scene.

The woman, who was also seen near the bank door before the robbery, was identified as a lookout in the Landbank West Avenue branch robbery in Quezon City early this year.

Police said their investigation was hampered by their unconfirmed reports of agreement with the UP providing that policemen and armed units avoided a year and before they are allowed inside the campus.

Lim scraps city college's examination fee

By Tina G. Santos

THE MANILA CITY GOVERNMENT yesterday ordered administrators of a city college in Intramuros to scrap a plan to collect entrance examination fees from new students.

Mayor Alfredo Lim issued the directive after learning that the board of regents of the City College of Manila approved a P200 entrance examination fee for each student.

The plan was supposed to be implemented when the school starts accepting freshmen for school year 2009-2010.

"CCM was founded and operated by the city precisely to provide free education to Manila residents who cannot afford to send their children to college," Lim told CCM president Rodolfo Palattao.

"For as long as I am the mayor of Manila, getting rich and reaping an CCM can't be a business. Education should not cost them anything," Lim announced during a recent meeting of department heads and chiefs of offices in the City Hall.

The mayor said charging an entrance examination fee would further burden families already facing economic difficulties.

DID YOU KNOW

THE MANILA Carnival was a much-awaited event during the early 1900s. It was every February for two weeks to a month. It included parades, balls and expositions. The carnival also held beauty contests and parade design competitions, a number of which were won by Fernando Amorsolo, who would later be named a National Artist.

Cyril L. Bonalaan, Inquirer Research

'Boses' brings message of hope, healing to Tondo kids

By Jude Ibuanisa
Contributor

FRESH FROM ITS FIRST INTERNATIONAL screening at the Lexus Vancouver Hawaii International Film Festival last month, the movie "Boses" had its first community screening recently at the Don Bosco Youth Center in Tondo, Manila before a cheering audience of young kids eager to listen to the violin played by someone who could be their favorite playmate or neighbor.

The touching story of a street child who finds his 'voice' by learning the violin has, by turn, saddened, enthralled and both sides of the Pacific, with its message of protecting the rights of children, crossing class and national border boundaries.

Director Elmo Orgbiko-Madrid was concerned initially that the first foreign viewers of "Boses" might not be so receptive. Her other concerns: if the subtitles could not convey the meaning of the Filipino dialogues or if they did not like the genre.

But then she saw the audience in tears, just like the audience at the Cultural Center of the Philippines when the premiere was held.

Similar emotions surfaced in Don Bosco as Tondo residents were treated to a mini concert by Julian Dupuy, the real life violin prodigy who played the role of Onyok, Prinod member Colet Bolipata, who played the role of his teacher, also gave a few introductions to the violin and classical music to about 1,200 children in the audience.

After the shooting, Julian was personally mobbed by instant fans.

The right to a caring childhood eventual like a rock star is pursued by the effervescent of "Boses." Unscrupulous children are not exposed to classical music and to see them appreciate it in this manner encourages organizers to put up more play dates.

Saint Joyce Abesamis of the Tondo Areas Foundation Inc. "It is our honor and privilege to share this film in Tondo. We hope we can get other sponsors for another screening so other zones. If we can share it again it's going to reach even more lives and draw even bigger crowds. Don Bosco helped us a lot. This is the best venue we could get in this area."

Abesamis thought of showing "Boses" to their community after watching a trailer of the movie on YouTube. Their foundation, Tondo Areas, sets put up to help their community find a better way in life themselves.

Barding desperation

"What we want to do is to empower the people to create change within themselves," she added. Their primary concern is battling the feeling of hopelessness and desperation in their communities.

The foundation puts up projects for mothers like parenting classes. It also runs a reading center for pre-schoolers and has recognized youth groups.

"Boses" is the perfect film for Tondo Areas's message of hope and promotion of children's rights.

Abesamis added: "Here in Tondo, entertainment is a quite effective medium since it's a paramount crowd drawer. We can talk about children's rights, nutrition, education and other topics. It's very important that adults are aware that children have rights. Adults have a responsibility to protect those rights. A film like 'Boses' is a great tool to educate more people effectively."

And Tondo, in particular, is "the perfect place" to show it the film. "We have parents tell the teacher: 'Pag-nakasalí yung anak ko, bambuhin niyo ha! Kaliit-galitin niyo yan. Minsan, talagang matigas ang ulo niyan," said Abesamis.

"Here in Tondo, they take it against the teacher if she or he is hard to children," she continued. "It's something we need to improve to help raise awareness of children's rights. You can see that the children want to express themselves. They are either shrill or angry."

JULIAN Dupuy

Issues

Mardi clarified that "Boses" actually represents a lot of issues and not just child abuse. "We more this abuse of power everywhere, in the workplace, in your own home, in the streets, everywhere. You think it's just a child's issue, but it's not. If you teach children well, they can stand up better to abuse of power when they are adults.

Abesamis said it is "Boses" message of healing that makes it a memorable film. "We are all broken spirits. We can heal ourselves through healing other people also," she stressed. "Sometimes we're not even aware of it but it happens. It's one of God's gifts."

Ibuanisa is a freelance writer and photographer who has been covering the independent film and music scene.

Boses is a Chumbalaya entry in 2008 produced in cooperation with Unang Cine Sin Miguel, DSWD, the Council for the Welfare of Children, NCCA and PDCP and also stars Ricky Davao, Charmyzie Pineda and Meryll Soriano. On Nov. 16, it opens the four-day film festival at the Ateneo University in Manila. On Nov. 20 and 27, Boses opens in Ilo-Ilo. Boses to Bago for Akiran and Sta. Isabel students while on Nov. 28, Mayon Boses to Daguspatan at Kasungayan sponsors the event at Old Magpanoll at 5:30 p.m.

Under a sanctioned marketing scheme, the organizers are pre-selling to schools and organizations for possible bookings in malls and other venues which will be announced later.

Come December, "Boses" screens in West Hollywood for the Women's International Film Festival. Slated A by the Cinema Evaluation Board, the movie is endorsed by the Catholic Educators Association of the Philippines for viewing by students.

Interested parties may please write to boses88@gmail.com or call Usero at 0919-8279001.

METROBRIEFS

Brotherly love hurts

A 38-YEAR- OLD former Manila policeman, who lost his dismissal from the service from his colleagues, was arrested late Wednesday night by Manila Police District (MPD) operatives for allegedly shielding his younger brother from arrest. Former PO3 Jamie Cangalog, who was arraigned with the MPD District Mobile Force, continued to report for duty with the unit although he was already dismissed from the police service in June for several criminal offenses including murder, homicide/murder and grave threats while working for another unit under the National Capital Region Police Office. His cover was blown late Wednesday night when he was arrested for the murder of Ramon Ilustrisimo by members of Alexander who is reportedly wanted for fratricidal murder.

Jeannette I. Andrade

Inner healing seminar

THE DOMINICAN Sisters of Regina Finserl, in cooperation with the Regina Rosario Contemplative Association, will conduct a seminar on inner healing through Contemplative Prayer from Nov. 15-16 at the Thomas Aquinas Research Center, University of Santo Tomas, España, Manila.

UP CFA to hold art fair

THE UP College of Fine Arts (CFA) will celebrate its centennial homecoming on Saturday, Nov. 15 at the UP-CFA campus grounds. The homecoming is a back-to-back event with the 2008 CFA Art Fair Exhibitions. The artfair also showcases works of students, faculty, and prominent alumni. Proceeds from artworks sales will be used to upgrade classrooms and facilities at the CFA. for more information, please log on to www.upcfa.com or e-mail us at info@up.cfa.com.

Holy Spirit homecoming

THE SCHOOL of the Holy Spirit of Quezon City Alumni Association will hold a grand alumnae homecoming on Nov. 15 at 2:30 p.m. at the SHS Multi-Purpose Hall. The event is organized by the alumnae association headed by Estela Bustillo (1963), president.

Priest opens a can of worms—literally

By Dona Pazzibugan

WORMS WERE ALLEGEDLY FOUND IN A can of a popular processed meat product that was supposed to be served for breakfast Wednesday at the San Carlos Seminary in Makati City.

Fr. Aaron Pascual, executive director of Caritas Manila, said he saw worms in a can of Spam Lite Meatloaf. "From the outside the can showed no defect so I (you could) not tell there was something wrong," he said in an interview.

Spam Meatloaf is a product of Hormel Food Corp. and is distributed locally by Pesobooks Corp.

Hormel Foods could not be reached for comment on reports that buyers were forced to call a toll free number that played back a recorded message that coffee beans were 6 a.m.–5 p.m. daily. Pureblock Corp. officials were also unavailable for comment.

The church's own Radio Veritas reported yesterday that the Archdiocesan Procurement Office of the seminary, bought eight cans of Spam Lite Meatloaf from Hungkul Price Clubhouse in Mandaluyong City on Nov. 4.

The radio report said Pedragosa canvassed when the opened one of the cans. But Pascual said only one can showed an expiry date of August 2011. He said the can was brought to the Radio Veritas office while seven more were kept in the seminary.

Radio Veritas said they called up the Bureau of Food and Drugs but were told by divisions chief Joyce Serrano that the National Meat Inspection Service of the Department of Agriculture had jurisdiction over the issue. NMIS lawyer Jane Bautista could not be reached, the report added.

Pascual said they would make a formal complaint to the manufacturers and distributor of Spam.

With Elizabeth Sanchez-Lucero

LIST OF BAGSAKAN CENTERS

MANILA
1. Pritil Public Market - Tondo, Manila
Mkt. Admin.: Irene Ballesa
Tel. no.: (0915) 285-5251
2. Divisoria Bagsakan Food Depot Vendor Trading Multipurpose Bldg., 170 Velasco Bluemart
Mkt. Admin.: Fr. Benigno Beltran
Tel. no.: (0928) 703-184
Tel. no.: 400-4430

CALOOCAN CITY
1. Bagsakan Market Bldg., 33 cor JP Rizal & Mabini St.
Mkt. Admin.: Ramon Cabilla
Tel. no.: (0920) 4094-841
Tel. no.: 285-4877

ROXAS
1. City Market Antipolo Phase Addition St. cor MHV Ave., Brgy. Dinapigue, Antipolo City
Mkt. Admin.: Carina Salazar
Tel. no.: 344-8227/334-0341
2. Public Market Phase, Cambridge, Cainta
Mkt. Admin.: Sheryl Ramos
Tel. no.: (0922) 824-4833

LAGUNA
1. Calamba Producers Market Carmona, Cavite
Mkt. Admin.: Diego
Tel. no.: (0917) 861-8008
Tel. no.: (049) 530-307/530-3414
2. Bacoor Public Market Bacoor, Cavite
Mkt. Admin.: Michael Muñoz
Tel. no.: (0918)893-8802

BATANGAS CITY
1. Batangas Public Market Brgy. Sta Clara
2. Batangas Market Zone, Brgy. Sta. Clara
Mkt. Admin.: Fr. Raimundo Villegas
Tel. no.: 040-7300

MUNTINLUPA CITY
1. Muntinlupa Public Market Brgy. Alabang
Mkt. Admin.: Nicolo Coronado
Tel. no.: (0920) 908-9988
2. South Station Bagsakan Midway Extn. cor. Commerce Ave., Extension, Alabang
Mkt. Admin.: Cathy Magsakay- 809-0408

QUEZON CITY
1. Commonwealth Market Brgy. Commonwealth
Mkt. Admin.: Antonio "Boy" Aga, Sr.,
Tel. no.: 931-0872
2. Mega D Mart Brgy. E. Rodriguez, KTEA, Batasan
Mkt. Admin.: Corsario de Guzman
Tel. no.: 440-8509/410-4000
3. Cristal Market- TIED, EDSA Batasan
Mkt. Admin.: Sheryl Ramos
Tel. no.: 456-0687
4. G. Market- Dumalag St., Quirino Highway Mkt., Novaliches
Mkt. Admin.: Cecilia Tan
Tel. no.: 335-2/359-9/6880

PASIG CITY
1. Malaya Ng Pasig Market- Market Ave., Concentro Complex
Mkt. Admin.: Catherine Tech
Tel. no.: 641-0434/641-1665
2. Ugong Bagsakan Market- Market Ave., Caruncho
Mkt. Admin.: Henry Sanchez Sy
Tel. no.: 470-6300

VALENZUELA CITY
1. Malinta Center- Km. 32, McArthur Highway, Malanday
Mkt. Admin.: Ernesto Lindo
Tel. no.: 294-6888

BULACAN
1. Meycauayan Market- Brgy. Camalig, Meycauayan
Mkt. Admin.: Ruda San Pedro
Tel. no.: (0920)920-8673

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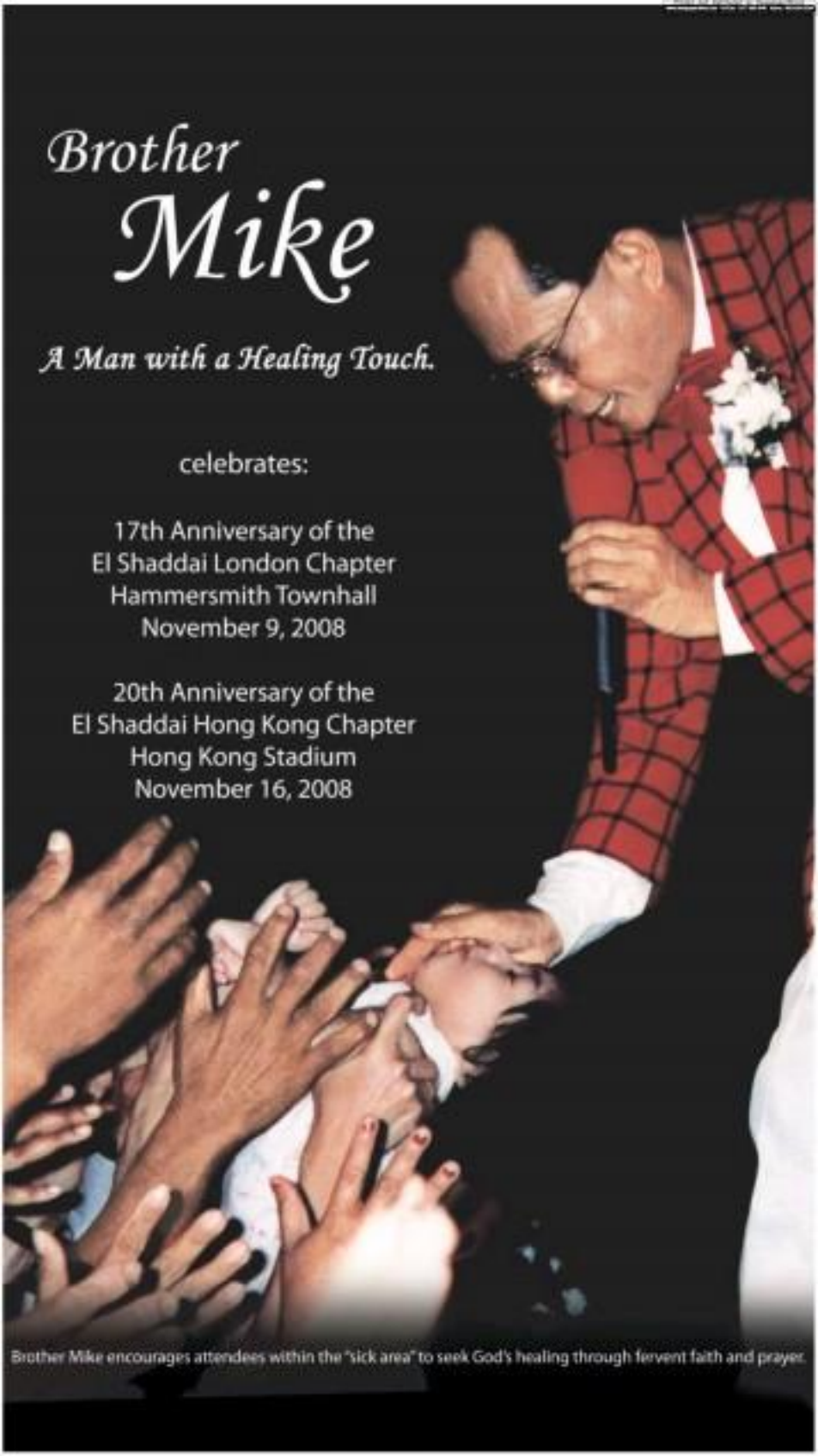
Hammersmith Townhall
November 9, 2008

20th Anniversary of the
El Shaddai Hong Kong Chapter
Hong Kong Stadium
November 16, 2008



Brother Mike encourages attendees within the "sick area" to seek God's healing through fervent faith and prayer.

More countries make spreading HIV a crime

LONDON—AN INCREASING number of countries worldwide are making spreading HIV a crime, according to a new report from the International Planned Parenthood Federation.

Health officials fear the trend could undermine gains made in fighting the AIDS pandemic and provoke a surge in cases. Globally, about 33 million people are thought to have HIV, and nearly 3 million people are newly infected every year.

"If the law is applied badly, this could set us back and do incredible damage," said Paul de Lay, an AIDS expert at UNAIDS, who was not involved in the report.

In Lay said the laws could result in tainted testing and deter the epidemic underground as people hide their HIV status, allowing the virus to spread unnoticed.

According to Planned Parenthood, 348 countries worldwide have laws that criminalize HIV or use existing laws to prosecute people for transmitting the virus. Another 33 countries are considering similar legislation.

Since 2001, seven countries in West Africa have passed HIV laws. In Benin, simply exposing others to HIV is a crime, even if transmission doesn't occur. And in Tanzania, intentional transmission of the virus can lead to life imprisonment.

Many of the laws in Africa were passed after a meeting in Chad in 2004 sponsored by the US Agency for International Development, the world's biggest funder of AIDS programs, and attended by US officials.

"The US was definitely certain to allow this to happen," said Kevin Osborne, a senior HIV adviser at IPPF and one of the report's authors.

De Lay said UNAIDS found out about the meeting only after it happened.

But poor countries aren't the only ones using these laws.

In the US, 32 states have laws criminalizing HIV transmission. Experts estimate that thousands of people have been charged across the country with spreading HIV.

Since 2001, 16 people in the United Kingdom have been prosecuted for spreading HIV.

In 2005, a woman in Canada was charged with criminal negligence and aggravated assault for passing HIV while pregnant to her baby.

She did not tell her doctors that she had HIV and did not receive the medications necessary to prevent the virus from infecting her child. She was sentenced to a six-month conditional sentence followed by three years of probation.

In countries like Britain, Canada, and the US, which are major donors of efforts to fight AIDS in Africa, such cases are particularly embarrassing, many experts say.

"It sets a poor example in the sense that other countries may not feel that there is an expensive or desirable way to deal with HIV," said Richard Elliott, executive director of the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network. AP

Probe: Sailor sparked Russian sub accident

MOSCOW—A SAILOR HAS been charged for seeing off the fire-extinguishing system on the Russian nuclear submarine Nerpa, causing 20 people to suffocate to death, investigators told news agencies on Thursday.

"The inquiry has established that a member of the crew, a sailor, set off the sensitive system on board the submarine, without authorization and for no reason," investigator Vladimir Markin was quoted as saying by RIA Novosti.

"The sailor has already admitted his error," said Markin, a spokesperson for the inquiry panel looking into Saturday's deadly accident in the Sea of Japan, and raised new doubts about the safety of Russian military hardware.

"In connection with this, the suspect faces charges... of negligence leading to the death of two or more people," Markin was quoted as saying by Interfax and ITAR-Tass.

The sailor faces a maximum sentence of seven years in prison for his role in the incident, which killed 20 people and left 208 others hospitalized.

Twenty people died when the fire-extinguishing system was triggered as the new Akula-class nuclear-powered attack submarine was being towed in the Sea of Japan, pumping lethal gas into the vessel and depleting them of oxygen.

The authorities said there was no fire on board the vessel.

An investigation was opened into whether criminal negligence had led to the deaths of the 20 people, who included three naval officers and 17 civilians, many of them shipyard workers participating in sea trials of the submarine.

Defective gas masks may have been responsible for a large number of the deaths aboard the Nerpa, the Russian cabinet Task Force reported, citing survivors. AFP

AN AFGHAN policeman walks past a destroyed car after a suicide blast in Khogyani province on Nov. 11. REUTERS

Suicide car attack on US convoy kills 21 in Afghanistan

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN—A SUICide car bomber struck a US military convoy passing through a crowded market in eastern Afghanistan on Tuesday, killing at least 20 civilians and a US soldier and wounding an additional 74 civilians, officials said.

Separately, an explosion in southern Afghanistan killed two NATO troops on Wednesday, the military alliance said in a statement. It did not disclose the troops' nationalities.

The suicide attack in the east happened in Ismil Kot district of Nangarhar province, said Lt Cmdr. Walter Matthews, a US military spokesperson.

At least 20 civilians were killed in the blast, which also killed a US soldier, Matthews said. Seventy-four civilians were wounded, said Ajmal Pardes, a provincial health official.

The bomber struck the convoy near a crowded market, where people were buying sheep, cows, goats and other animals, said Ghafoor Khan, the spokesperson for the provincial police chief.

An Associated Press photographer said that an American military vehicle, two civilian vehicles and two dishdoors were destroyed.

The wounded civilians were transported to at least three hospitals in the provincial capital of Jalalabad, Khan said. The death toll was likely to rise, Khan said.

Taliban militants regularly use suicide attackers and car bombs in their roundup against US, Afghan and other foreign troops in the country. But a majority of the victims in such attacks have been civilians.

More than 5,400 people, including nearly 1,000 civilians, have died in insurgency-related violence this year, according to a tally compiled by The Associated Press from official reports provided by Afghan and international officials. AP

India police arrest Hindu monk over bomb attack

LUCKNOW, INDIA—A HINDU monk was arrested on Wednesday by Indian police investigating a series of bomb attacks that have killed more than 200 people this year.

The 55-year-old man, head of a militant organization, was charged with conspiring in an attack on a predominantly Muslim town about 220 km east of Mumbai.

The bombing, which took place in September, killed four people.

Police said the man, Sudhakar Dwivedi, who often used the alias Swami Amritanand, was arrested in Kanpur, in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh, about 650 km away from the western state of Uttar Pradesh.

Earlier this month Kochar Shukla, one of three a senior Army officers, were arrested in connection with the Malegaon attack and a second bombing in Modasa, about 250 km north of Mumbai.

There have been fears of attacks this year in the major cities of Bangalore, New Delhi and Jaipur. Reuters

2nd school collapses in Haiti

PORTAU-PRINCE, HAITI—A school partially collapsed in the Haitian capital on Wednesday, injuring at least eight students and sparking panic less than two days after a roof in Haiti's largest school collapse killed more than 90 people.

Two floors of a concrete ceiling at Genie Divine school in Petion-Ville came crashing down, the second-story floor buckled and a wall partially collapsed while class was held in the small structure, tucked in a back alley. No one was trapped inside and there were no deaths.

Seven students and an adult were treated for minor injuries, said UN peacekeeping mission spokesperson Sophie Boisard de la Cour.

In word of the collapse spread, crowds of anxious parents and onlookers descended, along with ambulances and crews from the deadly Friday collapse of the College La Promesse in nearby Petionville, including members of an US search and rescue team from Harlan County, Virginia.

UN peacekeepers were deployed to keep the swelling crowd of thousands from rushing the narrow concrete passageway leading to the school. Haitian police and firefighters pushed onlookers back as they tried to view the scene.

Two other children suffered minor injuries when thousands more rushed another school building in an adjoining neighborhood after false rumors spread that a bad smell emanated from their own building.

Haiti's Civil Protection Director Frederic Adrien said he was unaware of the new collapse. AP

India police arrest Hindu monk over bomb attack

LUCKNOW, INDIA—A HINDU monk was arrested on Wednesday by Indian police investigating a series of bomb attacks that have killed more than 200 people this year.

The 55-year-old man, head of a militant organization, was charged with conspiring in an attack on a predominantly Muslim town about 220 km east of Mumbai.

The bombing, which took place in September, killed four people.

Police said the man, Sudhakar Dwivedi, who often used the alias Swami Amritanand, was arrested in Kanpur, in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh, about 650 km away from the western state of Maharashtra.

Earlier this month Kochar Shukla, one of three a senior Army officers, were arrested in connection with the Malegaon attack and a second bombing in Modasa, about 250 km north of Mumbai.

There have been fears of attacks this year in the major cities of Bangalore, New Delhi and Jaipur. Reuters

Walk to Save Lives

In the photo are the members of the Samahan Laban sa Pekeng Gamot during the press press conference at Hotel Intercon, Makati are (from left): Raymund Kourin, CEO of Zuellig Pharma; Connie Bakiquian, Exec. Editor Head of INQUIRER; Herminia Lequias, Pres. of Phil. Pharmacists Assoc.; Dr. Minerva Calimag, Chair of Phil. Medical Association; Food, Drugs and Cosmetics Comm.; Albert Muyot, Country Manager of Pfizer Phil and Red Cormejo, Asst. to the Pres. of GMA Network.

Islamist rebels take Somali city without a fight

HARDERE, KENYA—ANOTHER MAJOR CITY in Somalia fell without a shot to Islamist insurgents on Wednesday, with Islamic patrols in fighters taking the strategic port of Merka, residents and Somali officials said.

The Islamists are now in control of a large and rapidly growing area of southcentral Somalia, and the weak transitional government seems too paralyzed by infighting to do much about it.

The government, which is recognized internationally and backed by Ethiopian troops, has repeatedly urged the United Nations to send its peacekeepers to quell the insurgency and stabilize the country. But with the continuing conflicts in eastern Congo and the further region of Sudan, another major international peacekeeping effort in the region seems unlikely at the moment.

Hundreds of fighters rolled into Merka around 9 a.m. on Wednesday in heavily armed pickup trucks, meeting no resistance because government-allied militias had fled the night before, according to residents. Merka is only 60 miles south of Mogadishu, Somalia's bullet-pocked capital, and Somali officials warned that the Islamists were now planning to lay siege to Mogadishu.

"We have their grand plans," said Abdi Awaleh Haina, an ambassador at large for the transitional federal government. "But we're not going to run away. We're going to fight with whatever we have," Haina added, "we need help...urgently."

The Islamists have been steadily gobbling up territory and now control many strategic areas across the country. They seem to be fighting on two fronts, Mogadishu, from the north and from the south.

The US government has initiated the interests of shuttering al-Qaida terrorists responsible for killing Americans. AFP

For a job with Obama, be prepared to tell all

WASHINGTON—A SEVEN-page questionnaire being sent by the office of President-elect Barack Obama to those seeking Cabinet and other high-ranking posts may be the most extensive—some say invasive—application ever.

The questionnaire includes 63 requests for personal and professional records, some covering applicants' spouses and grown children as well, that are forcing job seekers to rummage from basements to attics, in time lines, diaries and computer archives to document both their achievements and missteps.

Applicants are asked whether they or anyone in their family owns a gun. They must include any e-mail that might embarrass Obama, along with any blog posts and links to their Facebook pages.

The application also asks applicants to "please list all aliases or 'handles' you have used to communicate on the Internet."

The exiting process for executive branch jobs has been onerous for decades, with each incoming administration rewriting new barriers in an effort to avoid mistakes or controversies.

But Obama has elevated the vetting even beyond what might have been expected, especially when it comes to applicants' family members, in a reflection of his campaign rhetoric against lobbying and the back-scratching, self-serving ways of Washington.

Question 18 of the Obama application asks whether "you, your spouse or any member of your immediate family" have been affiliated with Political Action Committees (PACs), 527 organizations, lobbying firms, chambers of commerce members, and whether applicants have paid the required taxes for household employees. (Those questions stifled controversies that tripped up President Bill Clinton's first two nominees for attorney general in 1993.)

"Every transition is unconducive," said Michael Berman, a lawyer and lobbyist who worked in the transitions of both Clinton and President Jimmy Carter. After reviewing the Obama application, Berman added, "I am very surprised I am not seeking a job in the federal government."

The applicants who successfully clear all the hurdles and ace their interview with Obama, the reward could be the job they wanted. But first there will be a thorough FBI background and ethics clearance from the FBI and the Office of Government Ethics. NYT

The WORLD

LIZU LOWELL B. SUSCO

Congo rebels create roadblock out of bodies

GOVERNMENT soldiers sit on the rim at the frontline near Kibati, north of Goma in eastern Congo, on Nov. 12, where Tutsi rebels and government troops face each other just 200 meters apart. AFP

KILIMANYOKA, CONGO—THE ROAD THAT LEADS INTO rebel-controlled Congo begins with a makeshift roadblock made from the corpses of two government soldiers strewn across the dark volcanic earth.

The pair on Wednesday blocked the main two-lane track running south from the regional capital, Goma—one with a bullet in his forehead and a frozen fist grasping the air above.

The scene was meant as a warning to government troops just a few hundred yards down the road where the rebels had handed the night before. And for the few fearful civilians trickling past the frontline, it was clear enough that Congo's savage war is not easing amid fears it could draw in Angola and others in the region.

"We don't want any more of it," said 19-year-old John Bitamuga, who pushed a wooden bicycle past the corpse-strewn checkpoint as rebels stood in a clutch of worn-in bush sides staring silently.

Years of sporadic violence in eastern Congo intensified in August, and fighting between the Army and fighters loyal to rebel leader Laurent Nkunda has displaced at least 250,000 people since then—despite the presence of the largest UN peacekeeping force in the world.

On Wednesday, Angola's Deputy Foreign Minister Georges Chicoty said Angola was prepared to send troops to Congo, fueling fears the conflict could engulf the region.

It was not clear whether the soldiers would be intended to serve a peacekeeping role or back Congolese troops, as they did during a ruinous 1998-2002 war that drew in more than half a dozen African nations.

Associated Press reporters have already seen Paraguayan-speaking soldiers wearing green berets with pins in the shape of Angola opposing UN guard avoid struggle Congolese soldiers. But Angola has denied their presence.

The severe outcry of Angolans into the conflict could draw in Rwanda, which Congo has already accused of sending troops in support Nkunda.

Rwanda backed highly trained Angolan troops during the 1998-2002 war, which saw Congo lose vast Soldiers. Rebels backed by Uganda and Rwanda seized vast swaths of territory rich in coffee, gold and tin in the east, while Angola and Zimbabwe sent tanks and fighter planes to back Gen.

Eastern Congo has been unstable since millions of refugees spilled across the border from Rwanda's 1994 genocide, which saw more than 500,000 ethnic Tutsis and moderate Hutus slaughtered.

Many of the Hutu extremists who orchestrated the mass killings have remained in Congo, prompting Tutsi-led Rwanda to invade the mineral-rich eastern twice. AP

Queen's government to exchange for access to lucrative diamond and copper mines in the south and west.

Queen's praise seen as backing future UK king

PRINCE Charles

LONDON—THE Queen has taken the unusual step of speaking publicly of her pride in Prince Charles ahead of his 60th birthday on Friday, a move seen by some as an endorsement of his suitability to be king.

On a visit to the Prince's Trust, a charity set up by Charles in 1976 to support disadvantaged young people, she praised his work and said she was "enormously proud" of his contribution to the organization.

"For Prince Philip and me there can be no greater pleasure or comfort than to know that two his core are safely entrusted the guiding principles of public service and duty to others," she added.

Judy Slade, Hello magazine's royal correspondent, said she thought it was the highest public praise the Queen had ever given her eldest son.

"It is a ringing endorsement," Wade told Reuters. "Over the years there have been a lot of stories about rifts. I think this is really the most sincere and heartfelt thing she has ever said about him."

The Queen's opinion of her son's suitability to be king has been a subject of speculation since an apparent rift about his relationship with Camilla Parker Bowles, a divorced woman blamed by Princess Diana for wrecking her marriage to Charles.

The Queen did not attend the party Parker Bowles hosted for Charles' 56th birthday. She was also missing from the couple's civil marriage ceremony in 2005, although she did attend a later blessing service at Windsor Castle. Reuters

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WHAT'S INSIDE
■ Bata scores; Pagulayan, Gomez fall /A33

SPORTS
Editor Teddyvic S. Melendrez Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ochoa

Wizards outlast Generix; BK up

By Cedelff Tapao

FOR CLOSE TO THREE QUARTERS, YUBI Rizzuda sat near the edge of the Magnolia Powerwater bench waiting to celebrate his PBL debut.

When he got his chance, the Ateneo guard did not disappoint, igniting a late surge that propelled the Wizards to an 88-83 overtime triumph over the Shaster Generix yesterday in the 2008 PBL-PC Fleet Lindeman Cup at the Araneta Gym in Manila.

	W	L
Barbosa	2	0
Magnolia	1	0
Purefoods	1	0
Shaster	1	1
Tigers	0	1
Tigers	0	1
Pharex	0	2

Tonight
7 p.m.—Tigers vs Purefoods
9 p.m.—Tigers vs Magnolia

Barbosa scored 16 points, grabbed five rebounds and stole the ball five times in just 16 minutes to help the Wizards erase a 14-point deficit in the second half.

Burger King also debuted with a hard-earned overtime victory over Barbosa Energy Drink, 103-79, in the second game.

Opie Meneo raided a triple before Marty Andiano stole a Barbosa inbound pass to pave the way for the variance that swapped spirits with, 81-79.

Barbosa guard Ded Lee sent the game to overtime with a three-point play but tied the game at 88.

Shaster fell to an even 1-1 card, while Pharex dropped to 0-2.

"In the end it was the three-point shot and penetration that saved us," said Burger King coach Allen Gregorio, whose team nearly blew a 14-point halftime lead. Opie was struggling but took that three-point shot. That [one] proved to be big for us."

The Wizards rallied, 59-52, when Barbosa came in for a foul-saddled Dylan Ababou with 3:30 left in the third period.

"All I can say is he's our surprise," Bansil said of Barbosa, a member of the Ateneo squad that won the coveted UAAP title.

"When he came in, the complexion of the game changed and he brought us the pool [the energy] we needed."

Ian Subdiaga of Pharex forced the overtime at 76-76 with two freethrows on a backcourt foul by Spencer Rodriguez with 11 seconds left.

Ababou attained to score seven of his 19 points in the fourth period, joining hands with Ryder Jaddon and Barbosa to complete the comeback.

Barbosa nailed a triple to win the thriller, 60-59, before Ababou gave the Wizards their first lead since the second period with a three-point play.

"Everything happens for a purpose," said Bansil. "That was the 13th man in our rotation and was a reserve until Lindon Advincula got injured."

After Barbosa's two free throws off an unsportsmanlike foul on Jose Villarosa gave the Wizards a four-point cushion, JP Alvarez capped the victory with a triple and a layup, 90-79.

Jaddon also finished with 19 points on top of nine rebounds and five steals.

The scores:

First game:

WIZARDS 88—Gamos 10, Subdiaga 10, Alvarez 14, Ababou 19, Andiano 10, Rodriguez 5, Jaddon 10, Tuffin 7, Meneo 3, Advincula 0, Bansil 0, Barbosa 0, Lucero 0, Pascual 0, Dumapit 0.

PHAREX 86—Cortez 18, Bacoto 17, Villarosa 17, Arce 8, Subdiaga 5, Capistrano 0, Ramos 0, Ilham 3, Co 3, Mateo 2, Aguilar 2, Cabiles 0.

Quarters: 17-19, 28-40, 48-48, (59-59), (88-86)

Second game:

BURGER KING 103—Manuel 13, Meneo 18, Andiano 12, Pascual 10, Fermida 6, Ramos 5, Bell 4, Tuason 5, Reyes 5, Bandalaria 0, Ballesteros 3, Tagaino 0.

BARBOSA 79—Cruz 20, Tagle 19, Tagaro 10, Lingganay 5, Martinez 5, Rivera 5, Dionisio 5, Cabiles 2, Tibon 2, Lacdo 2, Lucas 0, Pangalinan 0.

Quarters: 20-12, 42-38, 64-60, (82-82), 103-79

Guiao names members of RP team / A32

WILLIAMS, 6-0 (F)

NORWOOD, 6-0 (G/F)

DILLINGER, 6-4 (G/F)

HELTEBRAKEL, 6-3 (G)

TYNDS, 6-1 (F/C)

MILLER, 6-9 (C)

PENNISI, 6-4 (C/F)

SANTOS, 6-4 (F)

TAGUIAM, 6-4 (C)

RAYMUNDO, 6-3 (F)

TIAZ, 6-3 (G/F)

BAGUIO, 6-2 (G/F)

REYES, 6-1 (G)

DE OCAMPO, 6-6 (F)

No surprises in Guiao's RP five crew for Fiba tilt

Asi, Pennisi, et al, join up with rookies Norwood, Dillinger

By Marvin B. Carrillo

AN ATHLETIC AND VERSATILE 10-MAN ROSTER WAS YESTERday named by national coach Yeng Guiao for the Philippine team that will start preparing for the Fiba-Asia Championship next year.

And the firebrand mentor never hopes that two old hands could stand up against the region's taller players who have proven to be the main stumbling blocks for previous RP squads.

"Asi (Taulava) and Kiki (Pennisi) are here and they can provide us with some size," Guiao said after naming the members of the 12-man backend squad.

"We can match up to a certain degree (with the other countries)...Sana meron (ng 13 hope we have) naturalized players."

Together with the two Gilas Pilipinas centers who are also veterans of the last PBA-handcarded squad, Guiao named Rookie of the Year top rookie Jared Dillinger and fan favorite Jason Ray to the roster.

Also in the squad are Rookie of the Year top rookie Jared Dillinger and fan favorite Jason Ray.

"We have asked all of these players if they are willing to commit to the coming championship, where the winner will represent the region in the Fiba-Asia.

"It's the Olympic championship or nothing," said PBA commissioner Donald Dionisio, who was with Guiao when the RP team was named at the league's offices in Libis. "That's why we will need this same team in the finals."

Several countries are bidding to host the finals. The tournament will be played in May while the Fiba-Asia could be held as early as August or as late as September.

"We will make adjustments in our PBA calendar because we are aiming at joining the Jones Cup and a pocket tournament in the Middle East in July," Barrios said. "We will also try to organize a tournament here in Manila to give coach Yeng more tuneup games before the annual competition in China."

Miller, a former two-time PBA MVP, Dillinger, Norwood, Reyes and Baguio are the rookies in the team, though Guiao reiterated that he is not closing the door on "one or two players whom we think the team would need."

He also said that he talked to Jeff Aguilar, the ex-pro who is the father of Phoenix Kentucky reserve recruit Jacob, who will stay out for a one-year for graduation in May.

Alapag, Cagulangan left out

Guiao also explained why Talk 'N Text's Jimmy Alapag and Ginebra guard Mick Cagulangan are not on the roster.

"He is very talented," Guiao said of the 5-foot-9 Alapag, a member of the last Fiba-slate team that finished sixth in Japan. "But the problem is the mismatches in the point guard position are too emphasized in international tournaments."

Norwood was a point guard with George Mason University in the US-NCAA, while the 6-foot-5 Dillinger was with the University of Hawaii.

Most of the quarterbacking chores in the team, however, are expected to be taken up by Heltebrakel.

Guiao said he did not take a gamble on Caguioa, Sinthorn leading scorer—who is still in the United States and has yet to suit up for the Elite League for the reigning Philippine Cup—because of the player's workaholic work habits.

"He would rather be one of the players that we have in the league right now," he said. "I talked to coach Jong (Uichico of Ginebra) about the situation of Mick and he really couldn't tell. We decided to tap some other players."

Knights nip Jaguars, top PCC Visayas

By Cedrill P. Tapay

RJ JAZUL RISKED A LAYUP WITH barely a second left as Letran completed a stirring comeback from 17 points down to top University of San Jose-Recoletos, 82-80, Wednesday night and conquer the Visayan zonals of the Philippine Collegiate Championship at the Ormoc Supercourt in Ormoc City.

The Jaguars from Cebu looked headed for an upset win as they led, 80-74, with less than a minute left, before Jazul came to life a couple of game-saving plays and made the Jaguars pay for their poor free-throw shooting.

A Dino Dee split and Reymar Gatil hard's three-point play following four missed free throws by USJR sliced the lead, 79-80. Jazul tied the game at 80 from the charity stripe with 28 ticks left.

Gatil grabbed the rebound on Mhong Gutay Rabbit free throws, rushed down court and nailed the winning basket as time expired.

"Our defense in the fourth quarter really spelled the difference," said Letran coach Louie Alas.

The Knights will meet rival San Sebastian-College-de-Recoletos in the finals at 10, while the Jaguars draw NCAA champion San Beda Red Lions.

Jazul pumped in 15 points to outwit Dino sargon subtle Jay Mahinay and Luther Justiniani finished with 22 and 20, respectively for the Jaguars.

Two more undefeated squads, Mount 20 will be contested starting tomorrow in Cagayan de Oro, where University of San Carlos, San Sebastian-D. Xavier University, Ateneo de Zamboanga, University of Mindanao and Capitol University will be playing.

MEMBERS of the PBA board of governors, led by chair Jaime Yitlo of Alaska PBA (seated, right), gather to show their support for national coach Yeng Guiao (seated second from left) during yesterday's luncheon meeting hosted by commissioner Sonny Barrios. (In Guiao's right) at the league offices in Libis, Quezon City. Standing from left are legal counsel Melvin Garcia, Lito Alvarez of Air21, Mort Hondrogon of Red Bull, Ramon Ang of Ginebra, Boni Pardo of Purefoods, Ricky Vargas of Talk 'N Text, Bill Baylon of Coca-Cola, Buddy Encarnado of Sta. Lucia Realty and Ely Capacio of San Miguel Beer. Seated third from left is Tony Chua of Red Bull, the RP team manager.

Rain or Shine collides with SLR

By Marvin B. Carrillo

RAIN OR SHINE IS PLAYING WITH THE FURIES as it hosts Sta. Lucia Realty.

And the Elasto Painters want to get closer to that goal in the BIC-PBA Philippine Cup when they battle defending champion Sta. Lucia today seeking to keep solo third place.

Game time is 7:30 p.m. at the Ynares Center in Antipolo City with the Painters slightly gifted to rebound from a stinging loss to Air21 mainly because the Express will still be without the dependable Ryan Reyes.

Reyes, last season's top rookie, missed Sta. Lucia's last two games which the Realtors split. And coach Jboy Fernandez needs all hands on deck to stock the talented rookies of Rain or Shine.

Eddie Mamonal and Johnson Mercado are playing like veterans and have impressed a lot of coaches.

"They (Mamonal and Mercado) are very important and they are proving to be enough matching," said coach Ryan Gregorio of Purefoods, which drags it out with Red Bull and Welcome to Sing Sing Guiao in the first game at 5 p.m.

"They are really playing like veterans," Fernandez said after practice yesterday. "I'll really worry that they are playing the way they are, but we will be ready for them."

Bernardo said that he has devised a new defensive play that would hopefully limit Norwood and Mercado, pointing out to Dennis Miranda and Beny Dandan as the designated muggers.

Reyes, who would have been the perfect matchup for the similarly-sticky Mercado, wasn't cleared by team doctors after undergoing a suspension joint in his back even with just slight tearing and not fracture.

"He really cried Ryan, but I will not gamble on the guy's career," Fernandez said.

Gregorio, meanwhile, also has his own problems, like the unorthodox shot-lowered feeds Raymundo to the game against Alaska last week and the injuries to slash man Peter Jazon Simon and starting point guard Roger Yap.

Both have been out for a combined four weeks and Raymundo will be playing at last 50 percent. The versatile Painter's big man vanished during practice yesterday.

"But I see him in authority is enough confidence boost for us," Gregorio said of Raymundo.

STANDINGS	W	L
Alaska	2	1
San Miguel	2	1
R. in Shine	1	0
Sta. Lucia	1	0
Talk 'N Text	1	0
Purefoods	1	0
Air21	1	1
Red Bull	1	1
Coca-Cola	0	1
Welcome	0	1
Ginebra	0	1

GAMES TODAY
(Ynares Center, Antipolo)
4 p.m.—Red Bull vs Purefoods
7:30 p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs Rain or Shine

De La Hoya vs Pacquiao: Fans take over

ONE GAME AT A TIME

Sev Sarmenta

IT'S LESS THAN A month before Filipino Manny Pacquiao and Oscar De La Hoya climb the ring, at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas. We've read the insights of the boxing experts and, unless something really unusual turns up in training, the fans have made their choices or formed their views for the "Dream Match."

Here are the fans thinking? In a quick survey in our circle of life, the people we reached picked based on nationalism, technical understanding or a hunch. We got a rich mix of replies, no doubt reflecting the soup fans everywhere are talking them over.

Here's what our survey says:

■ I'm for Pacquiao, but I think De La Hoya will win.—Butch Dana, manager of Apo Hiking Society

■ De La Hoya. I don't think Aqua or Pacquiao at Golden Boy gave signing any misleading hint. Because Aqua nothing to lose and everything to gain. Inducing malcontents pay-per-view at De La Hoya (De La Hoya). I don't think Pacquiao can handle the Golden Boy but the money is good... It's embarrassing if De La Hoya loses.—Teddy Hontiveros, managing director, TRAM Advertising

■ Dinero! It's all about money. No winner, we lose. Everybody happy!—Armed Nathaniel, PF Mendiola

■ De La Hoya will win, unfortunately. He is too tall, too long, and too big for our beloved pandesurong Asenso Cambanal Boy.—Rep. Robbie Puno, First District of Antipolo

Here, here are different views from three brothers:

■ Pacquiao. He's at the prime of his career. But he must attack. Ring judging, unfortunately, is also ill for jaya jaba, he's in trouble.—Dr. Jojo Uriel, ortho surgeon

■ Pacman is purely boxing perspective. Sir-NO. From a business standpoint, Bob Arum has more reasons to have Pacquiao win. De La Hoya is old and there are no more future megafights for him.—Sonny David, businessman

■ Pacquiao. He goes the full 12 rounds because of his stamina and determination. It's the early rounds. Pacquiao should be careful in the early rounds. De La Hoya will also a nice extraneous memory.—Bernie David, businessman

■ Pacquiao, of course. Filipino cops 'di ba (Pacquiao ... we're Filipinos, aren't we)?—Mike Fabito, queryfan

■ De La Hoya by split decision. He's just too big.—Joel Uriel, History professor

■ My first name puts Pacquiao. Also, De La Hoya, naniniwala na kasi siguro, lights out before (Cybrain De La Hoya, because I've seen his fights before)—Daniel H. Anchetta, PDI staff editor

■ Pacquiao, aks d'yanpan. A Filipino bias, natin sana siyang ukan sa boxing (Pacquiao, of course ... many if I don't know boxing)!—Sonny Lim, Marketing professor

■ De La Hoya Aggressor ay Joy Dequiao ako (De La Hoya over d'Yan for the aggressor).—Ana Rodmanovsky, assistant principal for student affairs, Ateneo High School

■ Tough one, but I think it's De La Hoya by decision.—Fina Pascual, marketing communications manager, Makati Shangri-La

■ I just had a dream last night that De La Hoya BOX Pacquiao in Round One. This is no joke. Nasa Dos pamey-nasy daw Pacquiao will win as my grandma told me all dreams are reversed.—Irving Dacuma, IT specialist, dependable Technology Inc.

■ Oscar. Naturally bigger. How many have a hard time hitting or hurting De La Hoya, from if Oscar's older and a tad slower, his experience and right straight may be the difference. Jin also has a case stinging jab and a decent left hook.—Johnny Revilla, senior businessman/entrepreneur

■ Pacquiao. Magagalit si De La Hoya sa labas ni Manny. Mawawalanghiya siya ang pagkakalito ng sabal. Mahirang lumaban ang pamalo ni Manny. Pacquiao. De La Hoya will be surprised by Manny's power. He will feel the age difference. Most likely, Pacquiao will win by KO.—Cesar Montano, award-winning actor

Macapagal heads Scoop guests

RAMON "BONG" REVILLA JR., PHILIPPINE SPORTS official shooting president Arroyo and the ticket are to be among Philippine Olympic Committee officials will be in Manila's milling to the Scoop Sa Kamayan weekly session at the Sulo Hotel Restaurant on Pedro Gil in Ermita.

Ret. Macapagal, who will stand against PSC head Jolo "Pilipog" Cunanan, an Hubert Andrew Kapili of Basketball, Ramon Fernandez of rifles, Pablito Sanidad of football, Fiona Filipino of squash and Juliet Rubin of dragon boat.

DE LA HOYA: 'Sincere, a target'

Fired-up De La Hoya now down to 145 lb

BIG BEAR CITY, CALIFORNIA—Pethaps since "Golden Girl" then "Golden Boy" years, 35-year-old Oscar De La Hoya still has a double-million heart for the title.

"Hey, I love this. I love boxing. I love training," De La Hoya said, his eyes sparkling. "I see other guys in here, my sparring partners or guys just training here, and I'll see them sitting down between rounds and drinking water.

"And I say to myself, 'What the hell is that?' I would never do that. If you're going to be a champion, train hard. All the old three years, I still suspect myself how much I love this."

Next up is Manny Pacquiao in Las Vegas on Dec. 6, and De La Hoya is back to being a welterweight man.

Looking trim and energetic as he entertained a large group of journalists at his camp on Wednesday, De La Hoya said he was happy to be back where he prepared for many of his memorable bouts in the past.

"I didn't realize how difficult training in Big Bear was until I came back," he said. "I think it's been about six years since the last time I was here. I think it was the best decision I've made."

The elevation at the mountain resort area is 6,752 feet (2,000 meters). So he decided to hold camp in Big Bear, rather than at his home in Puerto Rico.

"The thinner air is the difference. Training in Puerto Rico is nice, I work hard regardless, I'm focused, regardless," De La Hoya said. "But the altitude is a killer. You have to work that much harder to get to shape."

"He's made the weight," said Richard Schaefer, CEO of De La Hoya's Golden Boy Promotions. "He tells me he's got a great chef who cooks great outdoors, and he loves roasting at night. So the things he enrolled to do, he's done."

De La Hoya, whose regimen includes dropping weight and slimming an old one with a sledge hammer, said he was down to 148 pounds—two below the catch weight of 145 for the Pacquiao fight.

"I was shocked because I feel so strong," he said. "About a month ago, I was trying to make 156, 149, and I was feeling weak, was feeling lightheaded. My biggest concern was my power and my speed. Coming down to welterweight has actually enhanced my speed and my punching power.

"We have weight to contend for me. Here we just have to maintain. I've three weeks, it's a tough fit."

Pacquiao (47-3-2, 33 knockouts) is 5-foot-6½, 4 inches shorter than De La Hoya (39-5, 30) and has a smaller frame, although Pacquiao, coming up from a 135-lb. base weight (61).

"I don't think weight is going to be a problem for me [both]," said De La Hoya. "I think the fact that I'm 35 and the fact that he's fast and young and young (29) and full of energy. I think it's going to balance out. It kind of evens the field."

BACOLOD VILLAR CUP

Bata scores; Pagulayan, Gomez fall

By Ray Lawrs

BACOLOD CITY—EFREN "BATA" REYES REPOSED HIS ROLE AS POOL monarch yesterday but Alex Pagulayan and Rubilen Gomez stumbled at the start of the First Senator Presidente Manny Villar Cup Decided leg at the Gardens Royal hall of the Golden Field Commercial Complex here.

The 54-year-old Reyes dumped teammate Mike Takayama, 11-5, to barge into the round of 16 even as former world champion Pagulayan and defending champ Gomez lost to unheralded rivals.

Bothered by an injured toe sustained from a break accident, Pagulayan yielded to Eduardo Villanueva, 13-8, while Gomez, the 2007 World Pool Championship runner-up and Dumaguete native of the island-hopping series, bowed to 16-year-old Johann Chua, 11-6.

Fighting to end a nine-long title drought, Reyes surged to a 7-1 lead and then cruised home against the 14-year-old Takayama en route to extraction for the $15,000 top purse of the four-day event promoted by Villanbe Talking to Pagsalang-ay Philippine Sports.

Reyes, a Hall of Famer, reached the ball after the 12th rack, then rounded Takayama clean three straight racks.

Playing to the crowd, Reyes smoked the table and came up with one of his trademark trick shots to seal the win and line up as his heavier role in the $37,500 tournament organized by the Billiards Managers and Players Association of the Philippines and supported by Gerolla Commercial.

EFREN "Bata" Reyes finishes with a flourish against competitor Mike Takayama.

"I hit my shots quite well because I came here early to practice," said Reyes, a Filipino. "It's good that I was able to avoid the table-reality."

Reyes also commended Takayama.

"Bata (Takayama's nickname) is a good kid. He just needs to practice more often and he more serious in his play and he'll go places."

Reyes will next face Chua, who pummeled on a string of unseen tournaments led by Gomez in the tournament being held in cooperation with the Bacolod city government led by Mayor Evelio Leonardia and the Negros Billiards Institute of Instructresses Jonathan Ng.

The feel-looking Chua, who made it to the tournament through the qualifiers, took courses of the field nine racks to pull away from his fragile unbeaten.

Gomez moved within 7-4, but Chua, a prized find from Binondo, Manila, held his ground.

"It's really a great honor for me to beat one of the best pool players in the world," said Chua in Filipino.

Japanese hotel Taguchi became the first foreign ace to advance into the round-of-16 by subduing Norwegian Chris Johannessen, 11-6.

Other early results saw Jerwin Bonifacio throat former World Cup of Pool champion Fu Jianbo of China, 11-7, Elmer Haya beat WBE teammate Rudy Jarina, 11-6, and Villar Cup finalists top seeds Ronnel Gallego ousted fellow teammate Antonio Lining, 11-7.

The rest of the first-round matches were being played at presstime, along with the Masters exhibition division.

SSC, UST volleybelles dispute 3rd semis slot

A REUNIONIST SAN Sebastian College squad and University of Santo Tomas clash for the third semifinal berth today in the Shakey's V-League women's conference at The Intramuros Sun.

Blazing third with identical 1-1 records, the Tigresses and the Lady Tigers collide at 4 p.m. following the perennial knockout match between Mount and the Eastern U.

Powered by guest player Genevieve Sison and counterpart Lou Ann Lofigio and Jona Devanders, San Sebastian is gunning for its fourth straight victory after burning to La Salle in straight sets.

UST is also on a winning streak, its latest a 25-23, 25-17, 25-22 smashing of PEU Eastsky that prompted coach Cristi Jodoc Santos to declare that his team is pushing despite the absence of injured captain Nida Cultura.

Rookie Judy Ann Caballejo and Ara Mojica have stepped up, while Mary Jean Balse and Venus Bernal have also teamed their games up a notch.

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HOLCIM ITF NETFEST

Korean ousts top seed Kiwi

By Mars Anthony Reyes

KOREAN COLLEGIATE STANDOUT HONG Seon-young doubled top seed Sindia Jones of New Zealand to the biggest upset of the second round in the Holcim ITF women's circuit 1 pro tennis at the Filoil Memorial Tennis Center.

The 134-year-old Hong displayed the better all-around game in a 6-3, 7-6 (5) triumph over Jones to barge into the quarterfinals against Chinese seventh seed Qiu Jilei.

"Sometimes she was trying hard, but overall she played well," said Kim Hun-kwon, Hong's coach from Myongji University. "She committed too few back mistakes by using her brains."

Strong left-hand shooter could elect's established of best chances against the power-hitting Qiu, who knocked out teammate's Gouanelou Ruo, 6-3, 6-2, to advance.

The Korean, ranked 849th in the world and a quarterfinalist here last year, dominated the first set and breezed out Jones after one hour and 40 minutes.

Her schoolmate, Seo Kyung-kang, eliminated Chinese Taipei's Su Ting-Lin, 6-2, 2-6, 6-2.

Rising sophomore against eighth-seed Indonesian Jessy Rompies, who defeated her compatriot Hill Ho, 6-4, 6-2.

Upset also evoked the heroics built of the draw as Malaysian Amirulah Nora she bested second-seed Gu Sining of China, 6-4, 6-3.

Nitrodin set up a duel against compatriot and fifth seed Aiza Nasi Dewayanti, a 6-2, 6-2, winner over Liu Chang of China.

Gouanou Thitsoth Tang Pei-Jean repulsed Uzbekistan's Alina Ogorodova, 6-1, 7-6 (3), and will meet Indonesian Lavinia Tanaina, 6-2, 6-4 winner over Hiroko Ohnishi of France.

6 embattled NSA heads can vote

By Jaen Nisnave

THE PHILIPPINE OLYMPIC COMMITTEE executive board yesterday declared the current presidents of embattled associations in archery, badminton, wrestling, sambo, taekwondo and swimming eligible to vote in the POC elections on Nov. 28.

"The only officers who will be recognized by the Comelec (election committee) are the existing NSA leaders," said POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, who is running for a second term against shooting's Art Macapagal.

"There can only be one representative for each NSA. No proxies are allowed."

Cojuangco reiterated the need to set aside the leadership squabbles in the six NSAs and shift the attention to the elections, slated at the Alabang Country Club.

"We will take up the leadership problems being experienced by these NSAs after the elections," said Cojuangco.

Four of the six NSA heads under fire—Julian Camacho of sambo, Mark Joseph of swimming, Samson Bracewell of archery and Go Teng Kok of taekwondo—are widely believed to be unopposed in their bids.

Wrestling's Abner Sikoy and badminton's Bing Fleras have not decided whether to support in the elections.

Macapagal said Cojuangco need at least 21 votes of the 40 NSAs to clinch the top post.

The POC Comelec is made up of former volleyball head Vitaliano Clavero, Amateur Boxing Federation's Ricky Vargas and Philippine Sports Commission chairman Jolly Gomez.

Pacsa 'Battle of Big Boys' today

A SELECT FIELD OF TOP DIVISION 1 SEDAN ACTION today in the 75 KM Battle of the Big Boys 4-Leg Derby at the Pacsa City Circuit.

Backed by the National Contact Association and The Pacsa Circuit Contact Association, the one-day derby highlights over 80 fights.

The top honors will be the overall winner who will receive an exclusive trophy and P5,000 prize money. Also there are elimination and P3,000 prize money for the Reverse Elimination.

Meanwhile, the action will again host the 50 KM National Endurance 4-Leg Derby on Nov. 23.

Makati 'Big Event' set Nov. 19

SOME 25 CONTENDERS FROM ALL OVER THE country will be competing for the coveted Best Driver Award in the second and final 11 KM Makati Big Event 4-Leg Derby on Nov. 19 at the Makati Coliseum.

Designed to qualify drivers with the entry Super Sprint, ruled the first Makati Big Event staged on Sept. 28.

Meanwhile, Makati Coliseum's regular backfights start at 1 p.m. today. The "Be Every Fan 2 Circuit Derby" follows at 6 p.m. Champions in the 2-cycle derby get a share of the P50,000 guaranteed prize.

SPORTS

Baseball's Cy Young awardee has RP roots

TIM LINCECUM

NEW YORK—TIM LINCECUM, A MAJOR LEAGUE baseball player with Filipino lineage, was named the National League pitcher of the year on Tuesday, becoming the youngest winner of the Cy Young award in only his second season.

The 24-year-old San Francisco Giants pitcher got 22 of 32 first-place votes and 137 points in balloting by the Baseball Writers' Association of America, beating Brandon Webb of the Arizona Diamondbacks, the 2006 winner, who got four first-place votes and finished second in consecutive years with 72 points.

"I was definitely surprised," said the slender Lincecum, whose mother is a Filipino nurnamed Ami. "I thought it was going to be a lot closer."

Listed at 5-foot-11 and 190 pounds, Lincecum dolled down mo—and the taters of pitchers—by firing 150 kph fastballs on his way to an 18-5 record with a 2.62 ERA and an MLB-best 265 strikeouts.

Lincecum is actually one of two Filipino-Americans in the Giants squad, the other being relief pitcher Eugenor Massiding Rapada, whose parents hail from Lucena.

"Baseball's done a great job of reaching out to all the different cultures," Lincecum told the US-based Filipino publication mabu Journal.

Last year Lincecum, who grew up in Bellevue, Washington, dedicated a season to his late grandfather.

"I just called him Grandpa (not because that's his last name," said Lincecum in an interview with the Journal mabu Rex. "It's Filipino."

AP

Fierce Celtics rally halts Hawks spree

BOSTON—PAUL PIERCE HIT A FREE-throw jumper with 0.8 seconds left, scoring 24 points to off ms Wednesday as the Boston Celtics overcame a 36-point, second-quarter deficit to beat Atlanta, 103-102, and send the Hawks to their first loss of the season.

Kevin Garnett had 25 points and 12 rebounds, and Rajon Rondo had 16 assists for the Celtics.

Joe Johnson scored 20 for Atlanta (8-1), finding an open Marvin Williams for the go-ahead 3-pointer with seven seconds left.

But Pierce answered at the other end and the Celtics beat Atlanta for the eighth straight time, including all four in their first-round playoff series last spring when they took advantage of the home-court advantage to oust the Hawks in seven games.

Trail Blazers 104, Heat 96

At Miami, Rudy Fernandez scored 23 points, including a clutch jumper as the shot clock expired, and Portland celebrated Greg Oden's return to the lineup with a victory over Miami.

Brandon Roy scored 22 points and LaMarcus Aldridge added 14 for the Trail Blazers.

Oden, the 2007 No. 1 overall pick who missed all of last season and sprained his right knee in the season opener, finished with three points and two rebounds in 16 minutes.

Dwyane Wade scored 36 points—his fourth straight game of 30 or better, a franchise record—for Miami, which failed on its bid for the first 4-0 home start in team history.

Lakers 93, Hornets 86

At New Orleans, Kobe Bryant and Derek Fisher each scored 20 points, and the Los Angeles Lakers improved to 7-1 with a rare easy

HOUSTON'S Trey McDrake is held back in the rear to stop Scola after a fight broke out against the Spurs Wednesday in Phoenix.

Charlotte.

The Lakers never trailed and led by as much as 25 before nervously holding on against a team that is expected to be one of their chief rivals for Western Conference supremacy. AP

Box SAS games: Parker 10, Ginobili 20, Duncan 10, Mason 10, Elson 10, Bonner 10, Thomas 10, Jackson 10, Jones 10, Hill 10, Williams 10, Ayers 10, Bowen 10, Green 10.

Federer, Murray down foes

MADRID—ROGER FEDERER KEPT HIS hopes alive for a fifth Masters Cup title Wednesday by beating Nikolai Davydenko, 7-6 (4), 6-4.

Federer, who pulled out of the Paris Masters two weeks ago with a sore back, still showed some of the sort that plagued his opening loss to Gilles Simon.

Davydenko, from the Czech Republic, was playing in the place of Andy Roddick, who withdrew from the tournament earlier

Wednesday with a sprained ankle after losing his opening match Monday. He had to borrow rackets from Novak Djokovic and socks from Andy Murray, and needed to buy sweaters from others after he was going to play.

Murray reached the semifinals by beating Simon 6-4, 6-2 in the other Red Group match.

In the Gold Group, Nikolay Davydenko will face Juan Martin del Potro, while the winner secured of a semifinal spot. Djokovic (2-0) has advanced and will meet Jo-Wilfried Tsonga. AP

RP golfers struggle like big guns

SINGAPORE—AUSTRALIA'S ADAM SCOTT felt loud to wet weather and much rough at the start of the $5 million Singapore Open on Thursday as big guns Phil Mickelson and Padraig Harrington also struggled to get going.

The rain, storm's own Ian Poulter and Ernie Els had the field with a four-under 67 on heavens blessed.

Play was suspended around midday local time due to the stormy weather.

Most Pacific were the best scores among four Filipinos with a 72, Angelo Que and Frankie Asuncion had 75s while Frankie Minoza won a potential halfway casualty with a 70.

Returning Pesley to finish their rounds are Juvic Pagunsan, rona pa after overnight; Antonio Lascuña and Antonio Lascuña. Rosero

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BUSINESS

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ADB sees no recession in RP in '09

Economic slowdown replaces inflation as main concern

By Michelle F. Remo

THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT Bank does not see the Philippines plunging into a recession next year as some businessmen fear, but believes that an economic downturn has become the most pressing issue that policymakers have to deal with.

Ifzura Jain, ADB country director for the Philippines, said the Philippine government's decision to abandon the goal of balancing the budget by 2010 was a welcome move given the need for pump-priming measures. Higher public spending is indeed necessary to cushion the impact of a deteriorating global economy, he said.

"It is difficult to make a precise projection [as to how much the Philippines will grow next year] but based on the current situation, we [ADB] don't think the Philippines will be in a recession," Jain said in a briefing yesterday.

Technically, recession is two consecutive quarters of year-on-year drop in economic output.

While the ADB considers projections of a recession exaggerated, Jain

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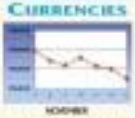

NOVEMBER

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

49.495 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Nov. 13, 2008

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

(For stock market report, see Page B4)

Stocks end 1.5% lower

SHARE PRICES ENDED 1.5 PERCENT lower yesterday, with investors in a cautious mood after the government trimmed its growth forecast for this year and next, dealers said.

They said concerns over a change in tack by the US government on a $700-billion bailout package also further dampened sentiment.

The composite index shed 29.15 points to 1,918.80.

Volume reached 682.30 million shares worth P1.4 billion.

Losers swamped gainers 73 to 11, while 45 shares were unchanged.

"The concerns about the future of the US bailout package and whether it could indeed help the global economy weighed on stocks today," Alan Villalon of AB Capital Securities Inc. told Dow Jones Newswires.

He said the government's decision Wednesday to cut to between 4.1 and 4.6 percent the economic growth forecast for this year—down from the earlier target of between 5.5 and 6.4 percent—was "more or less" expected.

Ayala Corp. closed 0.5 percent down to P288, after it reported a drop in nine-month profit due to lower earnings at units. PLDT shed 0.5 percent to P2,160. Bank of the Philippine Islands shed 0.9 percent to P58 while Metrobank was off 0.2 percent at P53.

AFP

Peso slips to 2-year low of 49.495:$1

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO YESTERDAY SLID TO 49.495 against the dollar, its lowest close in two years, as offshore investors turned more jittery over the bleak global economic growth outlook.

The local currency shed 99.505 from Wednesday's close of P49.99 as the recession continued to force the greenback given the massive de-leveraging or clean-up of balance sheets by battered global financial institutions that, in turn, sets in motion flows to the western world.

With the peso closing near the year's low of 49.56, Banco de Oro Unibank chief economist Jonathan Ravelas said the local currency could test the P50 mark against the dollar by next week.

"It seems that the continued prospects for de-leveraging and risk aversion have kept the dollar strong. At the same time, there is demand for dollars from local corporations," he said.

Ravelas said many local enterprises were now scrambling to cover their foreign exchange requirements.

"Remember that at the start of the year, the expectation was that the peso would strengthen," he said.

The peso hit an eight-year high of 44.23 in mid-February but has sharply depreciated since then, initially due to concerns over rising inflation and more recently due to the global financial meltdown.

The local currency has now fallen more than 11 percent this year, making it among the worst performing currencies in the region alongside the South Korean won, the Indone-

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BSP projects widening of trade gap next year

By Doris C. Dorisio

Exports seen at $50.8-$52.8B, imports at $65.8-$68.3B

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG Pilipinas sees the country's trade gap swelling to a record high of $15.3 billion next year on sluggish export earnings owing from a global economic downturn.

For this year, the trade deficit was estimated at $13 billion, according to documents containing the BSP's latest outlook.

The export growth target of 2-4 percent this year was expected to be outpaced by the 10-12 percent rise in the import bill.

While the recent slowdown in global oil prices to below $60 per barrel was expected to curb import growth next year to 4-6 percent, the global recession is forced by the credit crunch to the United States and Europe would likely result in the slowdown in the growth of export earnings to 1-3 percent, the documents showed.

The global economy is confirmed to be in recession when growth dips to 3 percent or below.

Export earnings for next year were projected by the central bank to hit $50.8-$52.8 billion while the import bill was seen at $65.8-$68.3 billion.

For this year, the country was projected to post $50.3-$51.3 billion in export receipts and $63.3-$64.3 billion in import bill.

The latest BSP forecast was approved by the inter-agency Development Budget Coordination Committee for macroeconomic and fiscal planning on Nov. 11, the documents showed.

The forecasts assumed that oil prices, based on Dubai crude, would decline to $75-$90 per barrel next year from $95-$105 per barrel this year. The exchange rate was assumed to weaken to P47-48 next year from P42.05 to the dollar this year.

Based on World Bank forecasts, global trade will likely fall by 2.5 percent next year.

For this year, the country's first-half trade deficit ballooned to $6.4 billion from $3.2 billion in the same period last year.

Nominal imports, in dollar terms, expanded at a fast pace of 15.3 percent in the first half, due largely to increased capital, raw and steel imports, and higher oil prices.

The World Bank also noted that the country's top export sectors, electronics, remained sluggish on demand for high-tech products fell worldwide and as competition intensified among global manufacturers of semiconductors, affecting falling Philippine export productivity.

Exports of garments also dropped with increasing competition from other low-cost manufacturers after the US lifted the quota, it noted.

"The deterioration of the peso by about 20 percent between January and October this year has been a relief to exporters and has helped bigger exporters cope with falling demand but has yet to encourage smaller exporters that have closed shop last year to reopen," the report said.

Gov't may shelve planned sale of 40% PNOC-EC stake

By Abigail L. Ho

THE GOVERNMENT WILL WAIT for the market to recover from the current slump before proceeding with the privatization of its 40-percent stake in PNOC Exploration Corp.

PNOC-EC president Rafael del Rosario said the government would most likely devote time to earlier fourth quarter schedule for the auction of the PNOC-EC stake, and move the privatization schedule to next year.

"We're still trying to do the [privatization] this year, but our preference is to do it some time next year. We want to wait for better times," he said.

He said the government would continue monitoring the market to determine when the best time would be to proceed with the privatization and how to do it best.

The approved modes of privatization for PNOC-EC included an initial public offering, a block sale and an asset sale, he relisted.

"There are all still being considered. The mode of privatization will depend on how much cash we need to get and how easy the money can be generated. We'll continue our monitoring of the market, and think of ways how to do the privatization," he said.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves earlier said the government hoped to generate around P10 billion from its PNOC-EC stake.

Sen Miguel Energy Corp. had expressed interest in participating in the bidding.

Del Pilar said other groups also expressed strong interest to participating in the privatization process, but he declined to name them as none of these expressions of interest were offered.

"If we get a good offer in spite of the market conditions, we'll proceed with the privatization," he said.

In the meantime, PNOC-EC registered a 65-percent increase in net income in the first nine months to P2.43 billion from P1.46 billion in the same period last year.

The main factor attributed to strong performance is the revenue boost it got from its 30-percent stake in the Malampaya Deep Water Gas-to-Power project, said sales and the acceleration of its Energy Supply Base.

BIOTECH SYMPOSIUM
Bruce McClure (right), senior scientist and director of Monsanto Co., discusses the different methods it employs to support the safety assessment of biotech crops during a symposium on biotechnology and Nutritionally Enhanced Food and Crops. The event was held at Shangri-La Mactan in Cebu on Nov. 3-4, 2008. With McClure is research scientist Greg Luna.

NFA to buy 1M metric tons of palay

By Amy R. Remo

THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY plans to buy some 1 million metric tons of palay from local farmers in 2009 to further boost the country's buffer of the grain.

At the sidelines of the Annual Oversight in Manila on Wednesday, NFA administrator Jessup F. Navarro said that with this target, the agency would likely need another P17 billion for its procurement activities.

The NFA hopes clean and dry palay at P17 a kilo. For this year's main harvest, farmers got a cash incentive of P1,000 for every 50 bags of palay sold to the NFA.

This year, the government had set aside P15 billion to buy 1 million MT of palay from local farmers. The target aimed at curbing costly rice imports, which hit a high of 2.3 million MT worth about P70 billion this year.

Navarro said the NFA had so far bought more than 370,000 MT of palay from farmers, representing 37 percent of the government's target procurement for 2008. This boosted the agency's inventory to a level equivalent to 29 days of consumption.

Filipinos consume about 31,139 MT of rice daily.

As of Oct. 1, the country's total rice stock—including stocks held by the private sector—was estimated at 2.18 million MT, enough to last for 66 days.

Data from the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics showed that the 2008 fall holds the biggest volume at 993,486 MT, enough to last 28 days. Of the volume stocked in fifth warehouses, imported rice accounted for 90 percent.

Millennium development goals and agriculture

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

A FAMOUS WRITER ONCE SAID: "IF THE measure of civilization, every woman has the same measure of civilization, as though she were abandoned alone."

More so, if the woman is in a poor rural area in the Philippines, where facilities to safeguard both the mother and newborn child's lives are woefully inadequate.

How does this relate to the 8 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) identified in the United Nations Millennium Declaration" signed in September 2000?

Last September, government leaders from all over the world met to assess progress done on the MDGs. They said MDG number 4 (reduce child mortality) and 5 (improve maternal health) are the ones most likely not to be met by 2015.

Maternal, infant mortality

Maternal mortality refers to those deaths that are caused by complications due to pregnancy or childbirth. In the Philippines, for every 100,000 live births, 162 maternal deaths, many more will suffer injuries, infections and disabilities. But a National Statistics Office report says "In most cases, maternal mortality and disability can be prevented with appropriate health interventions."

The following are further provided by the NSO:

- 200 women for every 100,000 births die,
- more than 11 women die every day,
- seven out of 10 deaths occur at child birth or within a day after delivery.
- four out of 10 deaths are due to complications and subsequent infections.

For every death, 40 more women get sick,

- eight out of 10 births in rural areas are delivered outside a health facility.

On infant mortality, the latest National Demographics and Health Survey shows that a child born in the Philippines is at greater risk of dying than a child born in other Southeast Asian countries. for every 1,000 births, 29 children will die before their first birthday (infant mortality rate) and 40 will die before age 5.

Birthing clinics

For many years, the World Health Organization and the Department of Health adopted a strategy of focusing the efforts on providing better maternal and child health services. They soon found out that this did not reduce the maternal mortality rate.

The strategy found to be more successful is to develop birthing clinics where the deliveries can be done. It is the poor families, especially in the rural areas, that have a lot of risks while giving birth because they have no access to medical care and hospital facilities. Many of these mothers die because of inadequate prenatal and postnatal care, or simply because they do not know where to go or give birth at home to avoid the cost.

Close supervision before, during, and after birth is the key to reducing the maternal and infant mortality rates. To decrease these deaths, it is necessary to bring about wide-ranging improvements in healthcare services for women, newborns and infants. Health service personnel, midwives and lay helpers need to undergo training. Birthing clinics, which are financially profitable and therefore sustainable, can be a catalyst for all of this to happen.

COMMENTARY

Action areas

In the Philippines, there is a social franchise system called "Well Family Midwife Clinics." This social franchise is owned and operated by the Well Family Midwife Clinic Franchising Inc., a non-profit nonstock corporation. Its primary aim is to promote maternal and child health services.

The United provided significant assistance to help develop WFMSI as sustainable mechanism for delivering maternal and infant care services. Over the years, the current 152 WFMCs all over the Philippines have developed a reputation for quality and affordable healthcare.

WFFI plans to extend this social franchising system to more areas and expand the network of WFMCs to 500. This is a response to the enormous need for affordable and quality maternal and child health and family planning services. With some support from PO and NGOs in the rural areas, this goal can be met sooner.

The WFMC is a social franchise system. Just like any other franchise system, it has a set of standards which the WFMC franchisee has to follow. Through the franchise system, the WFMC is assured of being provided clinical updates and training that keep it in the loop.

NGO and PO partnership

PO coalitions like the Alyansa Agilad ters and NGO networks should encourage their members to support maternal and child healthcare services by promoting the establishment of accessible birthing clinics in their respective areas.

The Well Family Midwife Clinics Partnership Foundation will meet on Nov. 15-16, 2008 at the Rockford Hotel in Quezon City. It will be a good start for the POs and NGOs to send representatives to this congress for possible partnership with WFFI in rural areas. Contrary to the predictions of the world, the Philippines may successfully achieve the nine millennium development goals of child mortality reduction and maternal health improvement by 2015. This way, the women in rural Philippines, "at the moment of childbirth," will no longer feel so alone.

(The author is dean of Agrimarch and former secretary for presidential flagship programs and projects. For inquiries, e-mail agrimarch@yahoo.com or mailto: 920-6521112)

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PLDT Budget Card

Gov't jacks up borrowing ceilings for next year

The plan calls for increase in spending

By Michelle V. Rarcia

THE GOVERNMENT RAISED ITS BORROWING program for 2009, saying public spending should be increased to keep the Philippine economy afloat amid a global slowdown.

From an earlier borrowing ceiling of P421.1 billion, the government now intends to borrow P589.9 billion from foreign and local borrowings in 2009.

"Given the higher budget deficit that we expect for 2009, we have to secure higher amount of borrowings," Finance Secretary Margarito Teves told reporters.

Of the amount, P325.4 billion will be in the form of foreign loans while P264.5 billion will be local borrowings. The new foreign borrowing program was increased from the original ceiling of P319.6 billion, while the new domestic borrowing ceiling was higher than the earlier target of P321.3 billion.

From a ratio of 74:26 in favor of domestic loans, the government has changed the borrowing mix for 2009 to 70:24, still in favor of domestic loans.

The government has adopted the policy of borrowing more from domestic sources than from foreign lenders to minimize its exposure to foreign exchange volatility. The depreciation of the peso against the dollar tends to hose the country's foreign-currency-denominated debts.

The increase in the borrowing program for 2009 was consistent with the economic team's decision to adjust the budget deficit ceiling for next year. From a budget ceiling of P40 billion set earlier, the economic team has allowed the government to post a deficit of as much as P182.5 billion in 2009.

The move was intended to cushion the government to spend more on social services and infrastructure, which economic managers said were necessary amid a slowing economy.

Economic managers agreed with the consensus forecast that the economy would also suffer from the crisis that grip advanced economies like the United States and those in the Euro area—the country's top export markets. They are also not expected with destinations for overseas Filipino workers, whose remittances help boost domestic consumption.

The credit crunch being experienced in advanced economies is also seen to force some foreign companies to pull out their investments in emerging economies, including the Philippines, on liquidity grounds.

Given the Philippines' exposure to indirect-related countries, economic managers now see the country growing by only 3.7 to 4.7 percent next year, slower than the original forecast of 5.0-5.7 percent growth.

PNOC unit gets coal contract

By Abigail L. Ho

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY HAS awarded a 6,000-hectare coal operating contract in Zamboanga Sibugay to a joint venture between PNOC Exploration Corp. and Iguana Petroleum and Mining Corp.

During the signing of the contract yesterday, PNOC-EC president Rafael del Pilar said at least P150 million would be infused into the work program in the first two years, with additional investments to come when the mine proves commercial.

The first two years of the work program involved the conduct of confirmatory drilling in the six-block contract area as well as preliminary development activities.

Del Pilar said initial data on Coal Operating Contract 022 indicated potential reserves amounting to 45 million metric tons of coal.

"This is arguably one of the best coal areas in the country, according to DOE data, With the signing of the contract, we are now poised with the exploration and development program in the area," he said.

PNOC-EC holds coal operating contract in various parts of the country, including COC 41 in Zamboanga Sibugay, COC 022 and 143 in Isabela and COC 140 in Sorsogon del Sur. It likewise operates coal [illegible] in Zamboanga Sibugay, Cotabato, Batangas and Nueva.

The government has also has endorsed to eight petroleum service contracts, namely SC 37 in Isabela, SC 42 in Ragay Gulf, SC 47 in offshore Mindoro and SC 38 in Mahanpinoy, SC37 in Calamian, SC 38 in West Cotabato, SC 39 in Misa Malabar and SC 43 in West Palawan, all in offshore Northwest Palawan.

In a related development, Del Pilar said PNOC-EC would award by late December or early January a farm-in contract for SC 61.

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	Launch Price	Last Price
	(as of November 11, 2008)	(as of November 6, 2008)
Bond Fund - Peso	1.0000	1.0000
Managed Fund - Peso	1.0000	1.0000
Equity Fund - Peso	1.0000	1.0000
Cash Fund - Peso	1.0000	1.0000
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.0000	1.0000

* Net Asset Value per Unit is the value of one unit of the fund. NAV per unit is computed by dividing the net asset value of the fund by the number of units outstanding.

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Vista Land cuts budget for projects to ₱8.5B

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacuna

VISTA LAND & LIFESCAPES INC. has started to pare down its budget for 2008 to ₱8.5 billion from ₱10 billion as it takes a conservative stance in light of an expected economic slowdown in 2009.

Officials said in a briefing yesterday that Vista Land would defer certain acquisitions of raw land for condominium developments and postponing the expansion of certain projects such as another phase to its Crestwoods condominium project in Taguig City as well as freezing a proposed beach project in an undisclosed location.

"We are postponing activities that won't impact on our revenues, maintaining capital expenditures but it's not a massive drop-off," said Manuel Paolo Villar, Vista Land chief finance officer.

As a result of the global crisis, buyers are avoiding themselves of smaller home packages averaging ₱2.9 million each as of September this year from ₱3.8 million in the same period last year.

Safety is protected. Filipino workers in the United States, the country hardest hit by the financial crisis, have also dialed up during the nine-month period, but was offset by bigger sales to the oil-rich Middle East and Europe.

Almost 60 percent of Vista Land's sales come in OFWs.

9-mo. net income down 21.8%

We are not slowing down on land development and housing construction. We are just being more cautious and selective in our land acquisitions," Vista Land president Benjamin S. Thevenet Jr. said.

From an original budget of ₱4.4 billion for land purchases this year, Vista Land has trimmed the amount to ₱1.6 billion.

"In times of uncertainty, our situation is stable because our buyers are real users. We are not trying to be reckless ... we are talking about

Retrenchment woes

COMMENDABLE THE EFFORTS OF the world's financial leaders may be...there is no denying that a global recession looms next year.

The infusion of liquidity in the market, government takeover of financial institutions and guarantee of bank deposits are expected to ease the adverse effects of the US bail financial meltdown.

But, from the looks of it, these measures may not be sufficient to prevent this world economy from suffering a deep contraction, although of lesser magnitude than that of the Great Depression.

The walls of iconic American and European investment banks were, in the street, hit hard by the crisis. Thousands of highly paid bankers, dealers, salesmen and backroom employees were thrown off their jobs.

Worse, their private pension and health plans, which they most need at this time, have been put on hold.

They cannot avail themselves of these lifeline programs until after their former employers have sorted things out with their creditors. And that could take a long time.

According to reports, the "saving grace" of the sudden unemployment surge is the availability of export talent at lesser costs in smaller financial institutions in the US and developing countries.

Others have it hard, the retrenchees do in terms of the financing industry have to be realistic with their compensation demands.

Retrenchment

In the US, retrenchment of employees (as downsizing, is an euphemistic current term), due to bad news hours, is practically a breeze.

Unless the collective bargaining agreements with the union provides for a specific procedure or period, the company can serve the "pink slip" on dismissal letter on the termination date itself.

There is nothing incorrect in that either ("you're fired" is fortunate Trump's "You appointed") is permissible, especially if it involves executives or people who hold sensitive positions.

Regardless of the manner the order is given, the employees concerned can be asked to clear his desk immediately, usually with a security guard in tow to make sure he does not get company property, and escorted out of the premises.

Severance pay is rarely given for dismissal arising from business losses. Why? To do so would aggravate the company's financial problems and push it to bankruptcy or liquidation.

If the company is obliged under a CBA to give separation pay, the employee, before receipt of the money, has to sign a quitclaim which usually carries a commitment not to sue the company in the future for any other monetary-related work-employment.

An employee who reneges on that promise could face a counter-suit for "breach of contract not to sue," with a demand to return the severance pay plus interest!

Business losses

In the Philippines, the rules on retrenchment due to business losses are similar to those of the US, but with a slight twist.

If the termination is done in good faith, or the company exercises caution for reasons other than serious business losses or financial reverses, the employee is entitled to separation pay equivalent to one month pay or at least one-half month pay for every year of service, whichever is higher.

Thus, if a company closes shop due to serious business losses or financial reverses and, in the process, the employee loses their jobs, it is not required to give them any separation pay.

The rationale behind the requirement is, it would be unreasonable to compel the company to pay the employees when it has no resources to draw on for that purpose.

Graphically, it would be like squeezing blood from stone.

But this does not mean employers have the carte blanche to dismiss their employees by the simple expedient of invoking serious business losses or financial reverses.

The losses or reverses should be really serious, or crippling enough to prevent the company from operating. Temporary or off-season losses will not suffice.

The burden of proof is on the company to prove the serious losses or reverses. If it fails to meet the criteria, it can be ordered to give separation pay to its employees.

Domestic effect

This early, prominent local businessmen anticipate that domestic companies whose businesses depend heavily on US or European markets may be forced to trim their workforces in 2009.

Unlike the Western countries where individuals can enjoy state aid for himself in the name of conduct, retrenchment is not easy to do in a country that has a strong sense of community or "pakikisama."

Considering our limited employment opportunities, a job-for can be an emotional, if not economic, disaster. Especially if the breadwinner is the sole breadwinner of his family.

Nothing unites the employees or drives them to collective action more than the fear of some or all of them losing their jobs for reasons not attributable to their fault or action.

During the 1997 Asian financial crisis, for example, some local companies affected by that problem toned down their wage demands, accepted adjustments to work schedules and adopted cost-cutting measures to avert closures or retrenchments. And the companies responded favorably.

Hopefully, the same spirit of cooperation will be alive next year.

(For feedback, please write to <cpalabrica@inquirer.com.ph>.)

ADB sees ...

From page B1

agreed with forecasts made by some economists from the government and the private sector that the Philippines would definitely suffer from a growth slowdown next year.

He said the problem of soaring growth rate taken over accelerating inflation as the biggest cause for concern. As prices of fuel drop and as increases in prices of food products ease, Ani said inflation should no longer be much of a concern for economic managers as it had been the past months.

What was more reassurance, he said, was that the Philippines' overall fiscal and economic would likely affect the Philippines in terms of a pullout of investments. This, in turn, could result in higher unemployment and sluggish domestic demand.

"What you spend today is also based on what you will earn tomorrow. If you think you may not have a job tomorrow, then that will affect your consumption today," Jain said.

Jain said the government needed to boost spending on social services and infrastructure to ease the ill-effects of weakening consumption. He said pump priming was a wise move during a crisis, even if this meant pushing back the goal of balancing the budget beyond 2010.

MPIC turns around, nets ₱660M in 9 mos.

METRO PACIFIC INVESTMENTS Corp. posted a net income of ₱660 million in the first nine months, reversing the net loss of ₱110.4 million in the same period last year.

The nine-month profit includes one-time items such as the ₱516.7 million in gains from the conversion of Global Medical Corporation to Metro Pacific Hospital Holdings Inc.

Without these items, recurring net income would have stood at ₱143.27 million.

MPIC said the robust improvement in core income for the period was attributable to the strong performance of Maynilad Water Services Inc. and the contribution of Medical Doctors Inc. as well as Davao Doctors Hospital Inc.

Maynilad's core income reached ₱1.75 billion during the nine-month period, up 75 percent from ₱535.6 million and contributed ₱335.6 million to MPIC during the period.

Makati Med contributed ₱69.2 million while Davao Doctors accounted for ₱17.7 million of MPIC's net profit.

MPIC said in its disclosure that Landco Pacific Corp.'s results were disappointing, prompting it to make a ₱100 provision to MPIC, compared with a contribution of ₱90.7 million for the same period in 2007.

MPIC also said it completed the purchase of an effective 67.1-percent interest in Manila North Tollways Corp. yesterday with the payment of ₱12.26 billion, officials said. This swallowed up ₱11.8 billion in cash and the assumption by MPIC of certain advances equivalent to ₱462.6 million. This was funded by a bank lending facility arranged by BDO Capital and shareholder advances. Elisabeth Sanchez-Lacuna

Peso slips to 2-year low of 49.495:$1

From page B1

sion regain and the bullish mood.

The rout has lost 36 percent so far this year while the regional and the region have dropped more than 20 percent.

In its recent conversation, investment bank UBS said policymakers in South-east Asia—particularly in Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines—may be tempted to resort to capital controls to temper the depreciation of their local currencies. It noted that Indonesia was already resorting to that policy.

UBS sees the peso ending the year weaker at 51 but rising to 48 against the dollar at the end of next year.

"If the leveraging frees continue, policymakers may never consent less conventional measures to soften the blow on their economies as the global economy slows," UBS economist Edward Teather said. "Significant capital controls have been used before and may again be considered before this episode is over."

Best deals these days are in debt and Asia, fund manager says

HONG KONG—CARLYLE GROUP cofounder David Rubenstein said on Thursday the two best places to invest in right now are in debt markets and Asia, specifically China, thanks to its continued economic growth.

With debt consistently traded at 60 cents on the dollar, companies should buy it back, holding it until the turmoil clears and selling it later for a premium. Banks are even allowing debt buyers to borrow money from them for these purchases.

"When history is recorded, the single best deals done in this environment will probably be deals done about near the bottom for the debt of one's own company," he said at the Asian Venture Capital Journal conference in Hong Kong.

Private equity firms were doing a lot of this right now, he said. As a result, the term "private equity" may soon switch to "private credit," as more buyout firms prepare to purchase the cheap debt of companies they have profiled in the past.

Rubenstein said another great investment area right now was Asia, because the economic growth was far better than other economies across the globe.

"While growth will be down in Asia, it will not be negative," the private equity investor said. "Asia has been more resilient in the downturn. China itself will be the single most attractive place to invest."

Still, another place he suggested to put money into was shares of US financial services companies and their assets.

"That will turn out to be the best thing you can do with your money in the United States," he said.

Some of the companies private equity deals took private after 2006 may be able to survive because of their debt arrangements, he said. So will those that were more conservative in their debt arrangements, but he said he was not sure they would survive a severe downturn.

The financial climate had changed rapidly, he said, and those private equity firms that didn't adapt would struggle.

"Those funds that do not recognize they have to change their traditional private equity model will not survive," he said. "If we say we have to do things differently, those firms will prosper and survive. I think we have to recognize that...those time change your business technique and business model will prosper."

Washington, DC-based Carlyle is one of the world's largest private equity firms with more than $95.3 billion under management and investments in companies such as Intl food chain Dunkin' Donuts, semiconductor firm Freescale Semiconductor and pharmacy chain Alliance Boots.

Carlyle has not been immune to the credit crunch.

Its affiliate Carlyle Capital Corp. went bankrupt in March and liquidated its assets as it could not meet margin calls from its lenders. The company mainly invested in mortgage-backed assets. Reuters

TRADERS watch stock prices and foreign exchange rates in Tokyo. Stocks sank in Japan early Thursday after another bad day on Wall Street. The Nikkei 225 stock average plummeted over 5 percent as the day's session began. —

Asian shares, oil battered as negative news abounds

HONG KONG—ASIAN SHARES fell yesterday to their lowest this month on uncertainty about the US Treasury's banking rescue plan and signs the global financial crisis is hitting deeper in Asia.

Japan's Mizuho Financial Group said it plans to raise fresh capital, while Commonwealth Bank of Australia warned it expected a big jump in bad loans.

The announcements came on a bleak day that also included data showing China's industrial output slumped in a seventy-year low, billions in losses stemming from Intel Corp. and a dismal forecast from US electronics retailer Best Buy.

European shares were set to tumble as well, with Britain's FTSE 100 seen down as much as 2.2 percent.

Deepening gloom about the global economy hit crude prices to hit a 20-month low of $55 a barrel. Metals such as platinum also dropped.

The Japanese yen ventured against the euro and the dollar after soaring on Wednesday on a flight to quality. Other Asian currencies fell, while Australia's central bank stepped in to support its tumbling Australian dollar.

"There isn't a lot of light right now," said Hiroaki Osakabe, a fund manager at Crude oil falls to 22-mo. low of $55 a barrel

Citibank Asset Management in Japan.

"With so many grim forecasts and the situation in developing nations growing worse, things are tough."

The MSCI index of Asian stocks outside Japan dropped 3.4 percent early yesterday afternoon after at one point falling its lowest level since Dec. 30.

Asian shares followed Wall Street lower after the US Treasury on Wednesday backed away from using a $700-billion bailout fund to buy bad mortgage debt from lenders to focus instead on buying stakes in the US banks themselves.

The shift in focus has only created uncertainty, but came after a raft of recent gloomy economic data.

Data showed China's industrial output slumped in a seven-year low last month as manufacturers throttled back production in response to weakness in the domestic property market and an unfolding slowdown in export demand.

Intel Corp also on to fourth-quarter revenue forecast, citing weak demand across the world for all its products, while Best Buy slashed its profit forecast and Japan's Nikkei earnings dropped 5.3 percent. Other markets also took a beating: South Korea, Hong Kong, India and Singapore fell 3-6 percent each and Australia sank 3.9 percent to a four-year low.

But Shanghai surged 4.3 percent on hopes for a major boost to the economy from fiscal spending and monetary easing.

Commodity prices stumbled further on concern spattering economic growth would curb demand for everything from oil to grain and on widespread risk aversion.

US crude futures fell for a third consecutive day, down $1.43 to $55.13, after touching $54.06 to $54.06—the lowest since Jan. 30, 2007.

"Oil prices continue to be pummeled by fears that weaker-than-normal economic growth will depress all consumption," said David Moore, an analyst in the Commonwealth Bank of Australia.

Platinum fell as low as a bid of $799.50 but rebounded to $794.00 late on in the day, still well below the New York session's close of $850. Reuters

Ashmore bent on buying Petron stake, has until Dec. 6 to buy gov't shares

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

LONDON INVESTMENT MANAGER ASHmore Group is bent on buying the government's 40-percent share in leading oil refiner Petron Corp. for over P21 billion or Ph.$0 a share.

"There is no change in the intention of Ashmore to exercise its right (of first refusal over the government stake). Hopefully by sooner than later, it will be resolved," Petron president Eric O. Recto said in an interview yesterday when asked whether Ashmore still exercise its right of first refusal to divest.

Ashmore has until Dec. 6 to to buy the Philippine National Oil Co.'s 40-percent stake in Petron or assign the right to buy to another group under a share purchase agreement between Ashmore and PNOC.

Recto represents the interest of the Ashmore-Oeggin group, which already controls 38.37 percent of Petron.

San Miguel vice chair and president Ramon Ang earlier said the company was in talks with the Ashmore group to buy at least 51 percent of Petron.

Recto said Ashmore has been scouting for a local partner to jointly invest in Petron since it bought Saudi-based Aramco Overseas Co.'s 40 percent in the oil retailer earlier this year.

It later acquired an additional 10.37 percent from minority shareholders after tripping the 35-percent "tender offer" threshold or the level at which companies are required to buy the shares of minority stockholders.

"The intended partner was government before they announced they wanted to sell 40 percent. Now that PNOC (Philippine National Oil Co.) is trying to sell, we are going to take up our options and the intention to have a local partner remains," Recto said.

The government has a 40-percent stake in Petron through PNOC, which said it would sell its 3.76 billion Petron shares at Ph.$5 a share.

BFAR barnesses wind power

By Amy R. Remo

THE BUREAU OF FISHERIES and Aquatic Resources has begun putting up windmill-operated pumps in the provinces to cushion the impact of expensive fuel on the fisheries sector.

Flight fuel prices have dampened the growth of the fisheries industry, which is expected to slow down to 1 percent in 2008, from a yearly average expansion of 7 percent.

The subsector is likewise expected to miss its 3-million-metric-ton production target for the year, as total output is estimated to reach only 2.9 million MT.

According to Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Director Malcolm L. Sarmiento Jr., the first windmill-operated pump had already been put up in Salinas-an, Camarines Sur.

Sarmiento said the 30-foot, 32-blade windmill would service the 4,000-square-meter fishpond.

He explained that the windmill-operated pump has a pumping capacity of 60-80 gallons a minute, roughly equivalent to the output of three units of 2-horsepower automotive pumps.

"The use of windmills would also translate to savings in terms of electric use. In Pampanga, for instance, only one fishpond operator around P35,000 a month on electric-operated water pumps," he said.

Sarmiento pointed out that although windmill fabrication and installation costs P60,000, the maintenance cost for pumping is only P150 every six months.

The life span of the windmill is estimated at 15 years.

"Two more windmills are already in the pipeline for use in BFAR facilities this year. One will be put up soon at the National Integrated Fisheries Technology Center in the Science City of Muñoz and the other will be in Region 2," Sarmiento added.

PAL PROPERTY

Cebu Pac barred from Ozamiz terminal

By Dexter L. Lacza

BUDGET CARRIER CEBU PACIFIC HAS entered flying between Cebu and Ozamiz City in late-April Mindanao chose a row with the reopening of the Ozamiz airport after a 18-year closure.

The Lopez-owned airline is being barred, however, from using the airport's rehabilitated terminal building since it stands on property owned by rival carrier Philippine Airlines.

Because of this, Cebu Pacific has had to locate its terminal operations—like passenger check-in, pre-departure, and arrival services—under a tent adjacent to the newly rehabilitated passenger terminal, which is owned by the state-run Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP).

At present, passengers waiting to board Cebu Pacific's Monday-Wednesday-Friday ATR 72 turboprop ferry flight between Cebu and Ozamiz sit on benches outside the airport's perimeter fence while waiting to board the aircraft.

"What we don't understand is why we're not being allowed to use a facility that was built using public funds," said Cebu Pacific vice president for commercial planning Glen Reyes.

Nonetheless, he expressed optimism about the potential of passenger traffic between both cities, given the traditional trade links of Cebu with Visayas-speaking residents of Ozamiz in Misamis Occidental.

Both inbound and outbound inaugural flights last Wednesday were fully booked, despite the distance of the Ozamiz airport.

During ceremonies to mark the inaugural flight, Misamis Occidental governor Loreto Ocampos vowed to remedy the situation, stating that the current condition—where one airline uses a government facility and another uses makeshift units—was unacceptable.

"What we will do is that [the provincial government] will just buy this property so that everyone can use it," he said in Visayan.

Ocampos pointed out, however, that the provincial government presently does not have the funds for such an undertaking, adding that he would ask President Macapagal-Arroyo for additional resources to boost the budget of the local government.

The CAAP expressed resignation over the issue, saying INQ7 could was affirmed by the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel.

"CAAP did not bar Cebu Pacific from using the Ozamiz terminal building, but they were made aware that CAAP sought the legal opinion of the OGCC on the legality of allowing them to occupy a space in the terminal building," the agency's legal chief Dio de Ocampo said the decision.

"Records appear that the terminal building was constructed at the time when PAL was majority-owned by the government," he added. "PAL is claiming ownership over the terminal building based on legal principle. The successor, terminal building, follows the principal, land."

Philippine Airlines' subsidiary Air Philippines operates flights between the city and Manila using a Boeing 737—a service that Cebu Pacific, so far, cannot match because the 1,800-meter runway of the Ozamiz airport is not strong enough to handle the weight of an Airbus A320.

Philippine Airlines did not respond to requests for comment on the issue.

PASSENGERS waiting to board Cebu Pacific's ATR 72 turboprop ferry flight between Cebu and Ozamiz sit on benches outside the airport's perimeter fence.

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With the start of the new season of the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA), it won't be long before it's eyeballs and championship season once again at the Araneta Coliseum.

Since you're a bona fide basketball enthusiast, why not live within the mecca of basketball as well? As a resident of the Araneta Center's Manhattan Garden City-MEC), not only are you living within a stone's throw away from Big Dome, but you won't have any more worries about crowds in the MRT or even the lack of parking space. And after a big game, you and your friends can head upstairs to your very own basketball court-MGC for a pickup game of your own. And practice the moves of your favorite PBA player.

A trellised canopy walkway connects the court to the rest of Manhattan Garden City's (5) varied amenities in its second phase. From Tower 1, you can easily switch to Tower 2 after your invigorating game.

If you're still up for more physical activity, walk over to the back of Tower 1 where you can find the best of Manhattan Garden City's superamenities. If tennis is more your sport, emulate Roger Federer and practice your sizzling serve and rallying forehand at the tennis court, which also doubles as a basketball court.

But if you would just like a relaxing break from all the competitive sports, just cool off in the tropical pool, or do laps at the lap pool. Or just relax your tired muscles in the outdoor spa. Indoors, you can shoot pool or play video games in the game room.

As the country's first-ever garden-inspired, transit-oriented community, mobility is part of the overall plan and design of Manhattan Garden City. Its buildings are connected to two existing transitional systems-the LRT2 and MRT. So whether you want to go to Quezon City, Makati, Ortigas, or to top-of-the-line malls such as Rockwell or La Stella, the train station is just a walk away on Manhattan Garden City's 720-meter-long garden walkway.

Whatever team you're rooting for, with all the concerts, basketball action and sunrise at the nearby Araneta Coliseum, you'll always be winner when you play the game of life at Manhattan Garden City," noted Megaworld Central Properties Inc. president Anthony Charlemagne Yu. Megaworld Corporation, the country's #1 residential condominium developer, is the joint venture partner of the Araneta Group for Manhattan Garden City.

Play the game of life at Manhattan Garden City

By living at Manhattan Garden City, you won't miss any of the basketball action and the concerts at the Araneta Coliseum.

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WEEKDAYS | **Beat the traffic** and get to your office on time.

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At the heart of the metro, one address makes the most of your precious time: Manhattan Garden City. Here, the days go by smoothly with all the privileges within your reach. Enjoy the fastest, traffic-free route around the city. Take a leisurely stroll straight to the LRT-2 and MRT-3 stations, directly linked to your home. And get to your office—and other destinations of your choice—with unmatched convenience. On weekends, rest and relaxation come just as easy. From your residence, a wealth of recreational offerings is a few steps away. The fourth-level podium deck offers a getaway like no other, with more than 20 exciting amenities.

Whether you're living life on the fast lane, or taking it slow, Manhattan Garden City gives you the best of both worlds.

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- Activity pool
- Wading pool
- Kiddie play pool
- Jacuzzi
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- Basketball/tennis court with bleachers
- Gym
- Fitness station
- Children's play area
- Climbing wall
- Tai chi zone
- Putting green
- Rollerskating rink
- Mixed jogging track
- Trellised canopy walkways
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Marketing lessons from Obama's election

IMAGES of Barack with wife Michelle and daughters Sasha and Malia in endearing photos from campaign trail to the despite moments

By Karen V. De Asis
Contributor

LOCAL CANDIDATES AND their image makers have a thing or two to learn from the just concluded 2008 presidential White House race.

These include:

Having an intrusive yet relevant, clear and concise message. Barack Obama's campaign outlining message was change. It was initially voiced generic but Obama took pains to elaborate this single message to cover a number of relevant issues including the sensitive US economy. Some of the specific messages include advocating a second stimulus package to jump-start the economy with another round of tax rebates and infrastructure funding; retooling and technology assistance for the US automotive industry, reserving tax breaks for US firms that outsource jobs overseas, among others. Some of Obama's change policies may not sit well with certain groups, yet the message remains transparent.

Reduced gimmickry. Obama's campaign was nicely devoid of unwarranted mudslinging and mass rallying to consume to local political campaigns and generally intended to call media attention to the candidates. Throughout the election campaign, the US Presidential-elect remained focused on the issues at hand, not haphazardly winning all three presidential debates with civility, expressivity and lucidity.

Getting the message across. President-elect Barack Obama spent twice as much as McCain on media at $240 million versus $135 million (Source: Federal Election Commission). Obama aired a 30-minute ad feature aired simultaneously on NBC, Fox, CBS, BET, TV One, etc., clarifying and covering quite a number of issues primarily directed at us electorate he has not reached personally. Media was used extensively and extensively across the campaign period to communicate Obama's stand on a number of issues including unemployment and

MARKETING 101

The learnings:

Have an intrusive yet relevant, clear and concise message.

Reduce gimmickry.

Get the message across.

Have heartwarming images.

Be credible.

Use celebrities to deliver the message.

Makati is home to world's largest sticker ad

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What is intellectual property?

Marketing RX

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Marketing lessons ...

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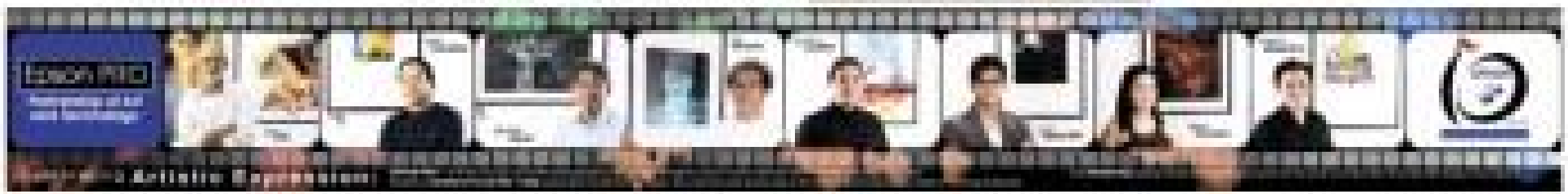

BUSINESS Friday

'Desegmentation is putting a stop to the pursuit of finer segmentation'

What about desegmentation? What's that for?"

Q: WE READ YOUR RECENT COLUMN on self-segmentation. We never thought about market segmentation that way. That is, as a consumer behavior and not only as a marketer behavior. We were having a lunch discussion on this concept when someone reminded us that in one other previous column you were also talking about another segmentation idea, namely, "desegmentation." The lady who reminded us said she read it in your column regarding (marketing guru Hermawan) Kertajaya's Philippine Marketing Association keynote speech where he preceded the audience by saying that marketing is better off today if it gets rid of market segmentation.

There another person told us that you actually talked about desegmentation in your last Blue Ocean Forum two or three months ago. He told us that the title of your talk was "Market Segmentation, Self-Segmentation and Desegmentation." In your column last Friday, you explained the first two but didn't say anything about the third, that is, desegmentation.

So please tell us about desegmentation. How useful is this for us marketing practitioners? What is it for? It seems to us that market segmentation and self-segmentation are enough for our segmental ideas requirements. A rapidcal consulting client called desegmentation sounds to us like a redundancy and even a contradiction.

Desegmentation concept

A: The concept of "desegmentation" comes from the bestseller and timed No. 1 strategy book of 2005 and 2006, "Blue Ocean Strategy." That's by W. Chan Kim and Renee Mauborgne, two professors from Insead, Europe's leading MBA school. In chapter 3 of the book, Kim and Mauborgne explain desegmentation by defining it as follows: "Desegmentation is putting a stop to the pursuit of finer segmentation? ... when you've identified a 'product category segmentation' segment who when combined with the 'numeric product category segment' segment, you have a common product category value" that can be satisfied with a new offering that will reach and "aggregate to a new much larger demand."

Of course, every time we quote God, we have marketers say and ask: "Wow! That's a whole lot. What does it mean?" It is a lot to chew and swallow. So read carefully and you'll be insightfully rewarded.

What it is not

Let's start from what desegmentation decisively is not. It's not doing many with segmentation. Unfortunately, that's the most common first impression that our clients and students get from just reading the compound term. In forming the compound, desegmentation, the use of "de" creates in the reader's mind a negation of the term to which it is affixed. That is what happened to you and your business friends in your new impression of the contradictory connotation of the term. So if you want to understand the concept and put it to practical use, this misinterpretation is what you have to first unlearn.

This frees the way for understanding what desegmentation really is. Firstly, it's about doing several levels of segmenting. It's first a process of "finer and finer segmentation" of your total market. Secondly, it's about knowing at what level of refinement to stop the process. And thirdly, it's about stopping at the level where your new candidate PTM (primary target market) segment represents a search of "a new much larger demand." It is this unique 3-step disaggregating of the segmenting process that is the outstanding contribution of Kim and Mauborgne to the strategy of market segmentation.

The idea of segmenting beyond the first level and refining down to the "behavioral segment" is not Kim and Mauborgne's. That's from the senior MBA set's "Strategic Market Segmentation" book. The logic of the process is simple. The first level segmentation is usually by socioeconomic and demographic variables such as, by socioeconomic classes like Class AB (rich) segment, Class C (middle class) segment, Class D (borderline poor) segment and Class E (extreme poor) segment. Or by age, or by gender, etc.

To target any one of these first level segments and change its purchase or usage behavior, the marketer must ask: "Are the consumers in, say, the Class C segment the same in, for example, their sensitivity to pricing?" The answer will almost always be "no." This means that for targeting and consumer behavior change purposes, that Class C segment should further be segmented by price expression. When that is done, it will result, for example, in identifying an economy Class C price segment (whose consumers are insensitively price-sensitive), a premium Class C price segment (whose consumers are less price sensitive), and even a super-premium Class C price segment (whose consumers are not at all price sensitive).

Multilevel process

Let's have an example of the multilevel process of segmenting as we can continue discussing in the context. The retail MNC we recently had a three-day marketing consulting engagement with the Singapore government's Civil Service College. In one-half day of the three days, the consultants had a workshop session with the Health Promotion Board. One of the programs discussed during this session was the Board's campaign to accelerate the acceptance and participation by Singapore company employees in the Board's "Healthplus Physical Activity Promotion Campaign." The idea of developing a three-level segmentation of the total market of company adult employees was proposed and taken up.

The Board was already segmenting at one level by age. The identified three segments: (1) Young adult company employees, (2) mature adult employees and (3) post-mature adult employees. To get the three age segments into identifying each one's "behavioral segments" called for going beyond this first level segmentation. In order to proceed to a second level segmentation, the Board members in attendance were asked to answer this question: "Which segment among the three has the most need for the workout?" This sets the starting priorities among the three identified age segments.

The Board chose the young adult segment. This segment became the subject of a second level segmenting. That time it's segmenting by the marketing cost behavior. This led to two identified behavioral segments. The young adult company employees who are now working out, and those young adults who are not working out.

Since the Board wanted to get to a "finer" third level behavioral segmentation, it had to prioritize the two just identified second level segments. To do this, the consultant asked the audience to answer this question: "Between the two segments, who is less difficult to reach and persuade about more regular or more in-

MARKETING Rx B5

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BUSINESS Friday

Shopping centers think green

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THE SPRAWLING MALLS AND shopping centers in the Philippines have not been spared by the wave of increased environmentalism over the environment that have engulfed shoppers and consumers the world over.

More than ever, mall developers are investing in new architecture and construction concepts that promise to reduce the structures' adverse impact on the environment.

Doing so not only earns them goodwill points among discriminating shoppers but also allows them to save significantly on one of the biggest components of their operating expenses.

There are many ways through which this increased concern toward the environment is manifested.

For the SM group, the biggest mall developer in the Philippines, environmental consciousness starts with the design of the malls, especially the newer ones, according to SM vice president Millie Rivera.

"For example, our malls have skylights that not only provide natural lighting, but also reduce the costs of power," Dizon says. "Some of our malls like SM City Baguio and the Mall of Asia also have green exterior features and landscape, respectively."

She also stressed that the SM group has put in place an Energy Management System in early as eight years ago. There are also strategic basement plants in the malls.

"We also recycle our waste, which we use in cooking meals and to water our landscape areas. We also have waterless urinal in our malls, which in the beginning were quite costly, but in the end turned out to be more efficient and more environmentally correct," she says. "The Mall of Asia also has zero water source, meaning we don't drain/get away any water."

From the employees and customers are encouraged to get on the environmental conscious-ness bandwagon through the purchase of the recyclable shopping bags and participation in the regular recycling fairs at the malls where everyone can sell their recyclable goods, such as paper and plastics.

For the growing Ayala group, (SEE PAGE B3-4

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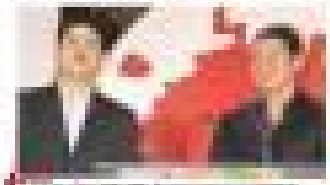

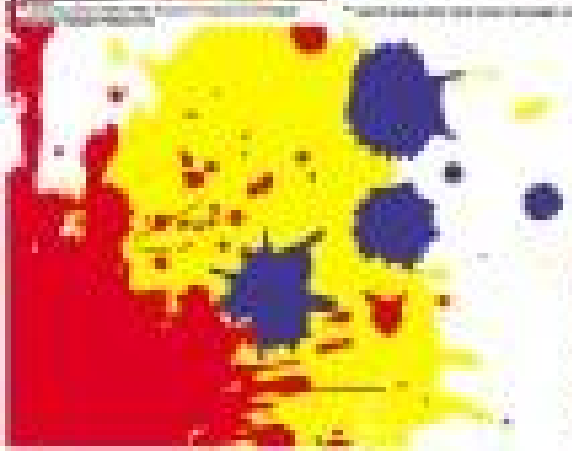

BUSINESS Friday

Shopping centers think green

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environmental sustainability is a standard and a philosophy.

"The scale of our projects requires us to design with a vision for future generations and not just the present. This long-term perspective, which has long been deeply rooted in Ayala Land Inc.'s philosophy, makes sustainable approach to development a necessity," said Rebecca Tomotikan, chief operating officer of the mall division of the Philippines' biggest real estate company.

Environmental programs

The following are some of the Ayala malls environmental programs, according to TrebeGlobal.

The Solid Waste Management (SWM) program aims to reduce residual waste by recovering materials that can be reused, recycled and processed into compost.

The Ayala malls started this program and it has become the model program rolled out to other malls.

Further, the SWM project is so successful that the group was able to bring out residual waste down by 80 percent.

This was due to major energy conservation measures such as process redesign, equipment refurbishing, retrofitting with more efficient technologies and re-calibration and repair leading to substantial savings in electricity costs.

Mall parking areas are also used as collection and drop-off points for the Water Blankets, a project organized to improve the collection of rain water in different malls.

Ayala Center Makati, dubbing Town Center , Southern Global City, and Trillium have three monthly event markers.

The group also recycles rain water to water the plants and is involved in the maintenance of over 50,000 trees and over 40 species in the reservoirs.

Tree planting activities are regularly held.

Business sense

TrebeGlobal says it just makes good business sense for malls to be more environment-friendly. For one thing, customers demand no less, and for another, doing so helps save the business time.

"Sustainability essentially means being more prudent and more efficient in terms of resource consumption (power, fuel, water, natural resources) and in waste generation (pollution, garbage, sewage). Then, with minimizing units of energy and water consumed alone, being more efficient in our consumption and using less wasteful processes similar to upcycling (soft), which contributes to the bottom line of our projects and reduces the maintenance drain of our machineries," she says.

The Ayuzara Center in suburban Quezon City, has likewise made a name for itself among environmental circles with its Gateway Mall, which has its theme of design reflected on rainfall.

According to Belle Robleza of the Ayuzara group's public relations department, the high-end Gateway Mall has many environment-friendly design features.

It has access to daylight via the Oculs (upper ground to level 4), planter windows in strategic areas, skylight at the entrance to give daylight access to four levels—all designed to reduce the need for artificial lighting during the day.

Builders says the Oculs, skylight and atrium were designed at great expense to the company because these sacrificed prime floor space that could have been rented out. But these were investments the group had to make to keeping with its high regard for being environment-friendly.

Good investment

"Being more environment-friendly costs a bit more in terms of investment, but reduced utility charges more than makes up for the initial investment," Robleza adds.

For Ernesto J. Ne, vice president for marketing of Ramon Supermarkets Inc., being environment-friendly is no longer a nice extra, but has become a moral imperative for retail establishments.

"With incontrovertible proof that global warming has been wreaking havoc on our world, we all need to be good corporate citizens, especially big business. On our end, Ramon's Supermarkets (operator of shopwise Hypermarkets and Rustan's Supermarket) have undertaken projects that range from reducing use of plastics, to recycling to conservation of energy to supporting organizations such as Pitchlands Pond for Nature, and we are committed to accelerate these efforts moving forward," Ne says.

According to Rina R. Javier, assistant vice president for asset management of Ramon's Supermarkets, one of the first moves the group made toward becoming a better steward of the environment is to put up mechanisms to enhance facilities in all stand-alone stores.

"Although this is mandated by law, we made sure that we strictly adhere to the international accepted discharge standards. We also started replacing 40-watt fluorescent tubes with 36-watt electronic ballast tubes to help reduce our energy consumption," Javier says.

"In future designs, we are considering the use of skylights and windows to help reduce our lighting needs. We are also studying the applications of LED in our stores since this has proven to be energy efficient with very long burning hours. Of course, we are continuously looking for energy efficient refrigeration and air-conditioning equipment, but most of the present eco-friendly designs come at a very high price," he adds.

"Yet, responsible retail developers are willing to pay that price, believing that doing nothing and letting the environment go to ruin would end up being even more costly."

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Gretchen Barretto in Ivarluski Aseron

By Charles V. Moral

IVARLUSKI ASERON laughed nervously when he said it was the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao that had inspired his collection for the Fashion Watch Quarter Series, presented Tuesday at the Makati Shangri-La.

"Structural, architectural," he said. Then adding almost apologetically, "in wood."

He had nothing to apologize for. Successfully combining the structural and rigid lines that mimic Frank Gehry's titanium-limestone-glass masterpiece in his 15-piece collection, his work—the second to the last of the Nokia-Mastercard Premier Vite series for 2008 (Cesar Gaupo will show next Tuesday)—proved that his reputation as one of the industry's genuine talents isn't all hype.

With his style often copied by newer upstarts and wannabes—often in disastrous ways, such that the exercise has become a pet peeve of fashion scribes ("copycopycopy!")—Aseron stuck to a singular silhouette—linear and Fitted—as base for his designs.

Out came the controversial actress in an unstructured ivory dress, quite unlike the silhouette of his Fashion Watch collection

GRETCHEN BARRETTO walks for Aseron's finale.

The Brilliance of
Elisia Diamonds

Timeless beauty, perfect proportions, remarkable craftsmanship these are the distinct elements inspired with Bulgari. Their latest masterpiece, Elisia Diamond Collection, a line of precious jewellery entirely in diamonds and 18 K whitegold that achieves a high expression of absolute elegance. Bulgari perfectly crafts the elliptical shape and refines femininity, which is drawn from the collection's name "Elisia".

The Elisia Collection first dazzled us with multicoloured precious and semi-precious stones in vibrant colors, complimented with the unique selection of extra white or yellow gold alternate to craft the base of the stones.

The Elisia Diamond Collection stayed true to the original inspiration, but this time, it's now complimented with the use of diamonds. These diamonds are of high quality in cut, clarity, color and carat weight. The elliptical design entirely set with pave diamonds and symmetrically punctuated by larger stones harmonize with each other to create a versatile and complete collection, ranging from necklaces to earrings, bracelets and rings that can be worn in a variety of combinations.

Time and time again, Bulgari never ceases to amaze us with its breathtaking collections. The exceptional designs, rich materials and excellent craftsmanship make them one of kind masterpieces, and the Elisia Diamonds Collection truly embodies this.

ROMANTIC Lace, net-sexy backs and skins, and skin peeking through grille "seams" provide a feminine sexy foil to the clothes' rigid, structured silhouettes.

Gretchen Barretto in Ivarluski Aseron

From page B1

ASERON pieces together jigsaw-puzzle-like parts with abrupt offsets to create grilles where the sections of fabric meet.

Lace peeking through sleeves, hems, cut-away sides and backs provided the front-mini-sexy foil to his otherwise severe tailoring. The palette was neutral—ivory, slate and black, with three pieces in sage green.

Striking

In terms of the pieces, undulating hems were lumped around bodices and neck lines, while the same hems appeared as peplums, with-undies, raised-sexy hemlines in a piece or two.

The latter technique was one of the most striking elements of Aseron's design: some parts of the garments appeared to float from the body, like a pinafore dress with a lace underskirt.

He first used this technique four years ago—and only once—for a one-shoulder dress which was part of a collection that paid tribute to his mother.

Worth noting was the workmanship and refinement employed in the sage pieces, cut like jigsaw-puzzle pieces cut "away together" with tiny strips of a contrast-color fabric lined vertically side-by-side, creating grilles that allowed for slivers of skin to show. This collection was done in three weeks flat.

Also notable was a short dress made of two pieces of tube knit, each half of the panel cut in one piece, from bodice to sleeve, and folded into a cushion-cut, triangular sleeve. It called to mind Cristobal Balenciaga.

He especially liked some of his more intricate details, like a flimsy sarong with a toggle around the neck that seemed to hold the entire dress onto the wearer.

Buzz

Aseron, following his friend Jimy Ildefonzo's lead who showed last week with several celebrity models (Isabel Lloyd Cruz, Victor Basa), had the Shang's Lobby Lounge humming when, for his finale, real estate developer Barretto in an unstructured ivory dress aptly unlike the silhouette of his entire collection.

A cluttered paramour of the actress was spotted in the audience.

Barretto, who bought at least 10 pieces from Aseron's collection for the Bonifacio Fashion show several years ago, is one of the designer's celebrity

ASERON with his muse

DETAILED expressions: An accordion-pleat accent, raggle-cut neckpiece and jigsaw-puzzle dress

AMAZING lace

clients whom he said "could pull off any of my experimental designs."

Why he decided not to highlight Barretto's much-envied physique, Aseron said, "Everyone already knows she has a great body. It didn't matter. I wanted her dress to be different, and she liked it."

But even a man as talented as Aseron may have a tendency to overwhelm a single collection with a multitude of details. Toward the end of the collection, he brought on a piece with severely pleated accordion sleeves, the same element repeated in Aseron's pedestal and all-but-veiled gowns. We failed to see how they connected to the unshining lines in his tailored dresses.

Then again, small aspects as this, or even the high-wattage gossip, looked at a celebrity guest model, couldn't detract from Aseron's polished and often very-rendering of a high-concept idea. As usual.

Fashion plum picking for the season

FEW THINGS ARE as toast-worthy come the holiday season as an updated wardrobe.

Kalibah latest collection, a medley of vivid prints and hot-to-trot hues, are plum for the picking this fall season.

T-shirt dresses embellished with stones along the neckline or sequins along the hem make partying fun and easy.

Slip on a pair of platform pumps for a night out or pair it with a cute pair of flats for a weekend jaunt to the mall.

Halter-style prints dresses are perfect for a garden party or—more likely—drinks outdoors, while slinky separates, like bold tops and skinny jeans, make your wardrobe worthy of inspection.

KALIBAH'S latest collection, a medley of vivid prints and hot-to-trot hues

Experience Italy with Pizza Hut's new *VIVA Italian Pizza!*

PIZZA HUT, THE COUNTRY'S leading pizza restaurant, has just taken their next pizza fare to the next level. This time, capturing what a true Italian pizza should be—with crust, that's not too thin, and not too thick with irresistible Italian-inspired toppings.

Inspired by three hearty flavors and rustic cues of Italian cuisine, Pizza Hut cooked up not one but four versions of their very own: totally Italian. Florentina, Milano, Sicily and Roma. True to their origins, all the four versions are cooked with passion and loaded with unique combinations of appetizing ingredients that bring out the different tastes of Italian cuisine. Aside from the distinct items drowned in each pizza flavor, all are to-die-for with olive oil in order to achieve that genuine Italian touch that's yummy and healthy.

Roma is the epitome of a folks-loaded pizza. If you're up for a gastronomic adventure and want to savor all Italian ingredients in one bite—pepperoni, ham, Italian sausage, bacon, mushrooms, green bell peppers, onions, black olives, fresh garlic topped with mozzarella and parmesan with olive oil—just throw all together and you get Roma. This pizza guarantees you true Italian palatable experience. It is unarguably feature of its ability to satisfy everyone's liking.

Pizza Hut also offers the very sweet Milano pizza: a wonderful symphony of tender, Italian sausage, capicolla ham, oregano with olive oil, and parmesan cheese. And for the meat-conscious veggie lover, Florentina is the right one for you. It's a concoction of fresh tomatoes, mushrooms, black olives, artichokes and garlic that is topped with mozzarella and parmesan, making this pizza a piece of creativity and imagination. Among the four Italian pizzas, Sicily is the unique one as it is topped with creamy white sauce with delectable and aromatic ingredients namely garlic, artichokes, mushrooms, topped with mozzarella and parmesan, drizzled with olive oil, and then brought to the shrimps for that seafood goodness.

The Viva Italian Pizza comes in layers and layers of assorted recipes, especially consumed for those who individually love meat (Milano), seafood (Sicily), vegetables (Florentina), or for those who want them all (Roma) in their slice. As the promise of ingenious doesn't end here, for all Italian combinations are layered on a new heavenly soft crust that's not too thin nor too thick, which will surely be one unforgettable first for Italian food lovers and first timers of the cuisine alike.

Enjoy a slice of the new Viva Italian Pizza and let Silvers away to the land of exquisite taste and others passion for food or in everyone's home. Get the best flavors of Italy with Pizza Hut's Viva Italian Pizza. Just call 911-1111 for delivery.

SWEEPING fashion cognoscenti cuts of a long-trained suede skirt, set off by a simple halter-neck ruffled top

Formal wear has never looked this young

Sassa Jimenez's creations are fun, fresh and frothy

By Bianca Cienaj
Contributor

THE MOMENT THE FIRST MODEL stepped out on the runway, it was easy to tell that the designer behind the collection was young: the black-and-pink dress the model wore featured a bit-loose skirt and puffed sleeves to a dubious combination of wool and organza.

Very few established designers would **create such a flashy, extrovert confection**, but in the occasionally bland local fashion industry, Sassa Jimenez is a breath of fresh air.

Jimenez, 21, recently graduated from the prestigious fashion institute of Design and Merchandising (FIDM) in Los Angeles, California. She managed to finish the two-year Fashion Design program in one and a **half years, graduating cum laude.**

Now, she's back in Manila to strut her stuff... and it has **solo done at the recent** Philippine Fashion Week is any indication of Forever Jimenez, then she's definitely got it made. **Young patrons filled the tents and** enthusiastically applauded nearly every **complicated design that made its way** down the ramp.

Jimenez's target audience is obviously a **young one. The audience, mostly students** who looked thrilled to be attending their first Fashion Week, were decked out in cocktail dresses and hairdos that would not have looked out of place in a high school prom.

Jimenez's all-piece Formal Spring/Summer collection **collected her eye. Most of** the designs were fun and frothy with bright pops **combined with dark hues...Irish** lingerie pink, aqua, mustard yellow, hot pink and plum mixed with black, gray, **bronze and ivory.**

One is reminded of Kate Sevilla and Mich Dulce in **these** early days. Each style **was given a different name (Hocus, Lily Monica, Helene, Tina), another indication of the designer's youthful playfulness.**

"It's a new take on formal wear from a **younger point** of view," Jimenez said.

"The clothes are **classic, but are** overly trendy; cuteful, yet **unconventional.**"

The collection doesn't depart from the **traditional** Spring/Summer trend.

Romantic details such as **ruffles, floral** corsages and elaborately draping **dominated the line, mostly in tulle,** duchess satin, jersey and chiffon.

THE CHARM of black in chiffon and satin mermaid ruffles fit for a red-carpet moment

No surprises **there, but never** of the dresses were crowd-pleasers.

Jimenez's eye for detail was also evident, **which** worked both for and against her. Neatly executed ruffles, ribbons and bows were all over the place (save point in her tube for her meticulous craftsmanship). But some designs simply looked too busy. One **can see her failing in practice sessions!).**

Plus, there were a handful of dresses that looked like they could've been purchased off the rack from local retail stores. Not a bad thing, but when you can just as easily **get dresses from Forever 21 or Freeway,** why go to a designer?

Abominably severe seams and the occasional visible pin also marred an otherwise good collection.

However, for the most part, Jimenez's show was fun—there's just an ethnic word for it. The designer seemed to have enjoyed making her clothes, and it showed.

Email the author at bianca.cienaj@yahoo.com

PUN AND fashion makes this LBD pretty much.

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LIFESTYLE Fashion&Beauty

Sam shines on a rainy day

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

THREE YEARS AFTER SAM Milby left the "Pinoy Big Brother" house, the semi-modest singer still smiles, enjoying fame and fortune long after the proverbial 15 minutes.

Instead Lloyd Milby grew up in Ohio and never expected to make a big in Philippine show business. But make it big, he did. He condenses to adore ado of all (name and more, as in teleseryes and star in rom-com movies. The 24-year-old's future in his profitable career is as bright than, as the old cliché goes, he's got to wear shades.

Well, he does. Sam is the new endorser of GS eyewear, and GS's stylish and woodworking co-owner Tina Domingo is very pleased with the brand's newest face.

"I think he's the perfect choice," she said. "During the shoot, he was very patient, very professional. He was even very appreciative of having the food served to him and his staff. He really is a very kind man who's appreciative of the littlest things. I've been listening to all his interviews. As an endorser, he grasps the whole idea of the product, which is essential."

It was a rainy afternoon indeed, but Sam spoke candidly to Inquirer—in English—about eyewear, controversy and his life a few years after 40 days in "PBB," among other things.

How do you feel about being the next endorser of GS?

GS's a huge blessing because young stars during endorsers now Jessica Sanz, Jennifer Rosales, Paolo Bascal. So to be in that line, I think it's a big blessing.

Magenda, stylish and affordable ang GS. Marunong chooses, realize ang unique nila. They're very updated sa mga styles.

How is modeling eyewear new to you?

ACTOR Sam Milby

RUSTAN'S MAKATI · RUSTAN'S TOWER · AYALA CENTER, CEBU
CORTE DE LAS PALMAS (ALABANG TOWN CENTER) · GREENBELT 3 · ROBINSONS GALLERIA · ROBINSONS PLACE MANILA
SM MEGAMALL BLDG. B · THE PODIUM · TRINOMA · THE POWER PLANT (ROCKWELL CENTER)
GATEWAY MALL, ARANETA CENTER · SM MALL OF ASIA · EASTWOOD MALL, EASTWOOD CITY

Comfort to a tee with new golf apparel and footwear line

NOW AVAILABLE IN ADIDAS SPORTS PERformance stores at Trilogue and The Podium, the Golf collection incorporates technology-fueled comfort and performance.

Aramis's CoolMax Extreme is the latest moisture management fabric in the industry and is incorporated in the Adidas Golf ClimaCool shirts and shoes. The technology improves airflow which results to a more breathable garment, keeping the wearer cool and comfortable throughout the game.

With its new Hush Installation technology which allows a reduction of moisture build-up and overheating, the CoolMax Extreme fabric works wonders for just about anyone who seeks functionality in their sports apparel.

Another innovation is ClimaLite fabric technology which wicks sweat away from the skin to the outer fabric for quicker evaporation.

Adidas Golf director of global apparel, Dietrich Dehne says, "Our new line of men's apparel combines fashion-forward designs with superior performance technologies. The members of our tour are professional staff who have already tested these garments in competition have raved about its look, feel and comfort."

ClimaCool Motion Mesh Solid polo features an open-textured sleeve with UV protection and an ventilated shell body perfect for the warm outdoors. It has 100% mesh construction and is available in seven color combinations.

The ClimaCool Motion Color Block polo has a rib-knit collar with mesh sleeve accentuations. Preppy and hot, it also has UV Protection and sublimated finish—perfect for golfing at any time of the day for self stock mesh side underarm mesh panels and open hole sleeves provide engineered mesh ventilation for maximum comfort. Choose among its cool color combinations and match it with your favorite pants or golf shorts.

Adidas also offers the ClimaLite Gradation Textured Solid Polo in 100% polyester, CoolMax Extreme pique with a hydrophilic finish. This rib-knit collar has an open-hem sleeve and is equipped with ultra-friendly UV protection. The underarm mesh gussets also add a stylish touch to this innovative tee.

Water-proof shoes

Adidas also offers a new lineup of footwear. The Tour 360 LTD combines top-of-the-line performance technologies with premium detailing, the waterproof Tour 360 LTD meets the demands of those who want the best of all worlds.

Equipped with ThinTech, low-profile technology, the Tour 360 LTD provides added stability and improved footwork for the athlete, and premium solid build quality.

The 3D FitPoint™ sock liner gives the shoe-wearer with exceptional support, comfort and a customized fit.

The 360 Wrap support system with Micro-Tongue construction offers superior stability while the hand-finished full grain leather on the shoe adds a rich look and long-lasting durability.

The Tour 360 XB surrounds the foot for an ultra-stable lasting platform with its 360WRAP with ThinTech technology to lower and center of gravity to ground you to power.

The shoe is waterproof and the 3D Fit Flotite™ inserts of its utmost comfort and custom fit. Its chip-resistant TPU outsole with ZONC cleats is ideal for stability and comfort to split seconds. Your Platform features a 1/3 clear Traxion configuration for improved footwork.

Adidas Golf's Powerband provides increased leverage and support for the foot to promote greater control and power throughout each swing.

The FitPoint™ technology's composition cocoons the foot, per its lightweight TPU midsole and adiPRENE cushioning provide long-lasting impact absorption for maximum comfort.

Get a free Adidas Golf cap with a single receipt purchase of P2,995.00 of the Golf apparel and footwear. This seasonal promo applies in the Trilogue and The Podium outlets only.

IMPROVES CoolMax Extreme technology is now part of Adidas Golf ClimaCool shirts and shoes.

Restaurant-inspired shoe store's new outlet

HOMEGROWN FAVORITE CHICKEN RESTAURANT Chicken Inasal is now the latest haven for Bacolod-born, the country's first and only restaurant-inspired shoestore. Recently opened at the second level of the mall, the outlet—which joins Bacolod-born's other stores—is made into a "bacolnized," walk-in closet" for the shopping convenience of trendy footwear aficionados of all ages.

At the new store, shoppers will marvel at the lavishly designed display and reception areas where they can relax while waiting for the arrival of their purchased items. Also made as main focal attractions inside the store are a closely incorporated impressed chiller—which served as cool footwear display area for kids shoe selections—and layers of wine bottles that were transformed into built-in display shelves for famous global brands such as Skechers, DC, Saitak, Terra Pinta, FitFlop, Lelli, The North Face and Hi-Tec.

"Our store is more than just an elegant shop for equally eye-catching, exclusive shoe staples for the brand-conscious. It is part of our aggressive campaign to not just reinvent the traditional shop concept, but more so to establish a whole new shoe shopping experience through Bro'Jim Jim, the ultimate fashion quencher of customers with a big appetite for delectable shoes," says Steve Thai, strategic business unit head of Rexodus International Distributor Corporation. The newly opened Galleria boutique is but fulfilling shoppers and more opulent interiors designed by artist Robert Alejandro. Shoeaholics will be more thrilled by the store's fashionista location, as it will offer not just fabulous footwear finds but also charmed by the incorporation of earth-friendly reusable materials in its store concept. Among these precious items are face cooking ingredients, wooden kitchen and dining utensils, barrels and stock store boards. "Creating a specialty shop that fulfills various people's very cravings for exquisite shoes is a delightful challenge for us to devise unique, pit quarter and pay your store themes that will perfectly blend with the ever-dynamic changes in footwear styles," says Thai.

Other Bro'Jim Jim boutiques are located at Ayala's SoSonna, Ayala Center Cebu, and at the Gaisano Mall, Gaisano Grand, Cebu. Call 303-1234.

Sam shines on a rainy day

From page 1b

THE ACTOR
At the main entrance of GLE mysteries

different and what makes you perfect for it?

They said my features are balanced and not too overpowering. The photos really focus on the face, of course, and I'm used to that in not too deeply, but my features are not too strong. So there's a good balance.

Do you still talk in your old "Pinoy Big Brother" housemates?

Minsan. Minsan they send a text, chenelse, the nanonood, pero may wahalas. One of labas ng mga housemates, I'm closest to Sue [Ramos].

You've mentioned that you never expected this kind of success. What are you learning about show biz and being a celebrity?

Well, the job isn't as easy as a lot of people portray it to be. When I think about it more, I feel myself more blessed, hati ang damay sine show biz na iboy'or lesbo in it for how many years. Normally, you earn once ang up. Pero dito, di mo gets mo ang job like that. I feel like I have a lot to learn. I just want to do improvement.

Before "PBB," I was never an actor. I wasn't even a singer, actually, or I just don't wanna stop learning. I don't think I'll ever stop learning. Sa mga challenging gano'n ang gusto talaga.

Which among these things do you prefer doing?

I love singing. It's my first passion talaga. I play guitar. I miss jamming. Iba 'thing I love about music is jamming with a full band, pero until ngayon, di ngayon. I have stage fright, though.

But I love acting. I love singing. I don't see myself doing anything else, really.

You first starred, and are only learning. Singing now...

I was born and raised in the States. Tagalog mostly ang alam ko. Yung start ng learning ko ng Tagalog, sa 'PBB.' So mga three years na.

Did you ever hesitate about pursuing a career in show biz?

Wala akong times na ganun. Mga mga panahon na parang gusto kong magpahinga, kasi ilong morning, parte ilong magbabayan. Kasi, dito dinelite ito halos ko. Minsan sometimes sa bahay parte mahiga lang, kapos ako eged. Just blogging mga gnito 'yung schedule ko. Kapoon, mga mga times na may rest. Minsan nakakapagod also marching sa gabi. Kahapon, that's one thing I really went.

Where would you spend it?

Just for this year, maybe'd go to also. First time, actually, I went on vacation. I went to Thailand. Tiliphone three recognized me. I was surprised nun's sinabi. I got four days. Nice beach. Iconic, Ayan ornaten. Traveling is one thing I love about the job. We're doing a tour of Europe this month. I love travelling talaga, and seeing different cultures.

Young actors show-for friends your learning from.

We have a small group, actually that really helps me out. Every Sunday, pupbalasan ng "SSAP." We're Christmas. They help you out and they guys for you if you're having a problem.

Friends in my small group: Christine Reyeres, Erik Santos, Pinky, Richard Poon. I do get to hang out with Erik Tiatuncion, son of Gary T., sometimes. He has a bike and I ride it. Isang sa taga. He's the reason I bought a motor bike dune [Laura] rode at the back when we went to Batangas, one time.

Is Sam your girlfriend, and are you still "exclusively dating"?

Ahuh. We're are together. We're not together. We're known as a love team tha, but, I stress... we work together in "Eyeres" and we worked together in "Singing Bee: Ka Isip."

Do you and your friends share acting or singing tips when you hang out?

They don't really talk about show biz too much. It's more about helping each other guys as Christians. But they do give me advice. Especially Pinky, he's a very great actor. "Your face is too distracted when you cry. You sensitive one..." Mga ganyan.

Speaking of Pinky, you both decided to drop the libel suit against Lolit Solis. When you filed it, did you consider that you may be alienating gay fans, and that your strong liberal might be construed as "being gay is wrong"?

Ahuh. I wasn't thinking that. It's nothing against homosexuality at all. It's more about setting something that was completely false. There was no truth to it at all. When you write something like that and you use the names, there's what people believe. It's nothing about being against homosexuality. It's more about just having the truth come out because people are thinking the wrong thing.

So officially, what is your stance on gay people?

Well, I do work with them. When I was starting, my fashion stylist coach was from gay. So I have no problem with it at all. I have friends that are.

Describe your fitness regimen.

I really don't have time to go to the gym now. Usk, I used to go once a week at least. I'm very busy. Before, I was very active with my diet. No beef, no pork, I barely eat any sweets. No rice, no pasta. Rice chicken, fish and vegetables. I'd really eat them. I think a lot of fun too.

Right now, when I wake up, I try to do a set of 75 push-ups tonight and right after that, 20 seconds later, I do a set of 30 sit-ups. I do 30 in 40 seconds, and I time do big cubes. It takes about five to six minutes. I always listen to music.

Were you always fit?

I was very fit. When I was starting, I had been personal trainer, which was very very lean. I was about 14 or 15. And then when I started high school, I gained a lot of weight 'cause nagmahabo ako sa hardcore restaurants. I gained mga 30 pounds. I ate everything, the fries, the burgers, ang sarap! Pinoy comfort food.

I did something in high school. I am 152 lbs. I was in that weight class. The next year, I was 170. If you see pictures of me, my face was really big. I lost the excess weight when I dieted.

If Sharlet you get ranked on a movie once if the role calls for it?

I'm a naturally shy person. But at the same time, some roles require some things. It really depends on what the role calls for. If that's required, we'll see. I want to continue on an acting.

How comfortable are you playing the prosthetics-heavy character in "Byaso"?

I like the character. Alhamdulillah, "Bahit maysing ka?" that you'll see a lot of changes. I think the characters will be redressed eventually. Hindi ko alam basi ban you'll see.

The prosthetics, they take one hour to put on. I'm not too fond of them anymore.

In "My Big Love," I had full-time prosthetics. Huang mga last days, I cringed. "I don't like it anymore..." I'm a very patient person, but I'm not too fond of it. Mej tajo na. Aapag matulog. Alahilo talaga pla pa'minsan.

What do you want to be known for, eventually?

With acting, I wanna be known as versatile. I'm still a beginner. Iban John Lloyd [Cruz], Piolo, Lotlot nila, they've been acting thing years na. I can mean people to see improvement in my acting.

As indie film, it's artsie and temperate, so I'm excited. I think my acting's important to Yid do too, "What I like about it is that it's it's a good break from a romantic-comedy. And I like the story.

How can you able to use your celebrity in supporting causes or charities?

Sometimes, we have charity concerts. Bisi right now. I've been given a chance to be Ilo-panorama of Education's youth spokesperson and role model.

There are assemblies where they need encouragement to study, and to be against drugs and violence.

My last assembly was a couple of weeks ago, in Baguio. Lahat ng mga youth leaders, the best students at lahat ng mga, they were there. I was required to speak. And I performed this... oompas.

KENNETH Cole's newest store at the second-floor Greenbelt 5 offers premium clothing, leather goods and accessories for men and women.

Big Apple brand opens new Manila address

KENNETH COLE OPENS ITS newest store at Greenbelt 5 in Makati.

Catch the newest styles under Kenneth Cole New York with a fusion of a few chosen Kenneth Cole Reaction items as showcased in the store's 116-sq-m cozy interior and later the World.

Kenneth Cole boasts a line of premium, timeless and fashionable clothing, leather goods, and accessories for men and women.

The store's retail shoppers could also enjoy Kenneth Cole Reaction's collection of sunglasses and eyewear bags for men, as well as clothes, shoes and tote bags for women.

In the Philippines, Kenneth Cole New York and Kenneth Cole Reaction are exclusively distributed by Steven Specialties, Inc.

Kenneth Cole New York is in Power Plant Rockwell and Greenbelt 5. Kenneth Cole Reaction is in Alabang Town Center, Ayala Malls Manila Bay, Bonifacio High Street, Trinoma and Robinson's Midtown.

Shopping for treats. Being treated like royalty.

Shop this Christmas season using your Citi card and join Citibank's Royal Treat Promotion.

Every P1,000 single-receipt purchase with your Citi card gives you a chance to win a once-in-a-lifetime shopping experience in London, and more. You can also opt for instant rewards and earn up to 3x Rewards Points. Text CITI to 2800 or visit www.citibank.com.ph Promotion period is from October 25, 2008 to January 31, 2009. Don't have a Citi card? Call 423 3000.

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One week stay for two at one of the most luxurious boutique hotels in Mayfair, London	Tour of fashionable Oxford Street	US$5,000 shopping money with VIP assistance at Marks & Spencer	Exclusive preview of the 2009 Marks & Spencer collection	Limousine tour to take you around Westminster Abbey, Knightsbridge and Notting Hill

Citi never sleeps

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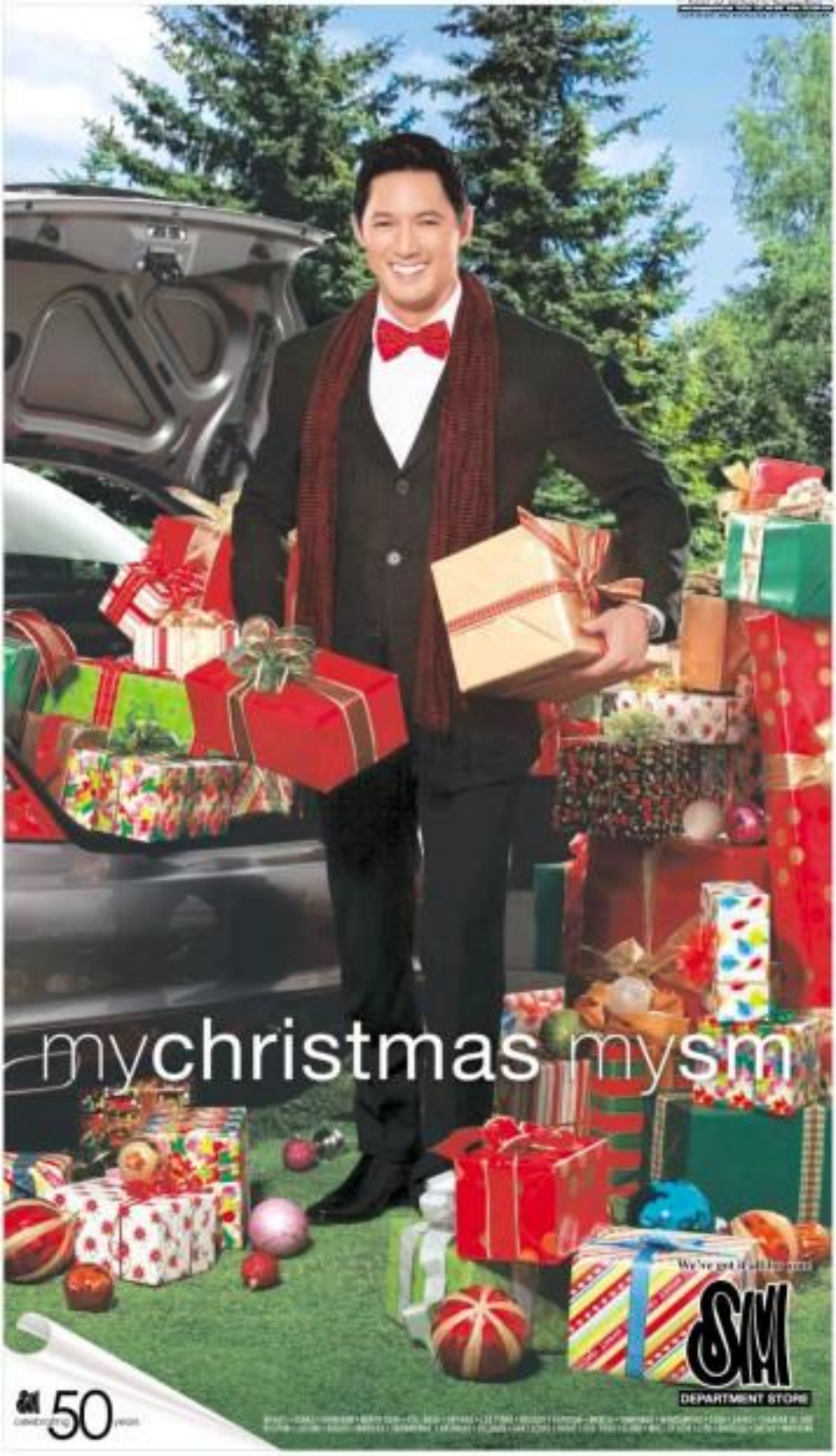
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LIFESTYLE Fashion&Beauty

OSSIE Tio, Butch Moily with Lulu and Tony Sycuaco

PAMETTA Sycuaco

PET ADVINCULA, Angelo Calma, Tina Advincula and Nes Calma

BELOVED Encore! Ultra glam chairperson Amalyn Mendoza opera lovers Lourdes Cojuangco with brilliant co-chairperson Manny Pangilinan

Opulent nights of opera songs and cocktails

THE NEW YORK OPERA SINGERS were the highlight of the absolutely fantastic "Beloved Encore!" at the Makati Shangri-La grand ballroom.

The world-famous group performed alongside world-class Filipino talents such as singer Martin Nievera and composer Louis Ocampo.

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arnache

Photos by Alex Mia Images using FM, Point Solutions

The event, dubbed as a charity fundraiser, was hosted by philanthropist Lourdes Cojuangco. "I feel so blessed and I want to share these blessings to all the children, who are most in need of our love and guidance as they go through their illnesses," said Cojuangco.

Heading her attention was the co-chairperson of Beloved, Encore!—PLDT's dynamic chairperson Manny Pangilinan.

The concert's beneficiaries were the Gift of Life Foundation, its liver transplant program and the Philippine Heart Center.

Beloved's project management committee consisted of Mariam Santos, Jenine Ilusorio and Bonchi Jacinto Monteiro.

Another major contributor to the success of the fundraising was **EE Jean Arboleda**, who brought the talented Thee Wah Opera talent (globally dubbed as "Singers Beyond Borders," for their undeniable gift of music).

UPLIFT NIGHTS 11

CHINKY Santiago, Justin Bo Santiago and Annie Ravanera

OSSIE Garcia-Meneza and Nica Garcia

JOANE Ilusorio and Ambassador Alberto del Rosario

MIKE Sandoval and Marie Cojuangco Yulo

GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS

A. LITH — BY JOJO ABRERA

FUSSO BARDY — BY FIEL ZAMORA

DICK TRACY

LOVEHOYS — BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

JAMES BOND — BY JIMMY SCOTT

DIVINE COMEDY — BY STEVEN PABALINAS

BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

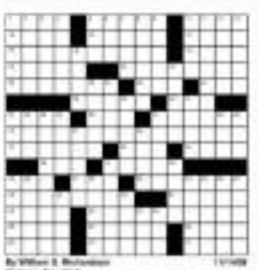
ATOMO AND WEBBY — BY VINA GARCELLANO

TUBOW — BY MARK COLL

BIKO MACHINE — BY MARC ARIETA

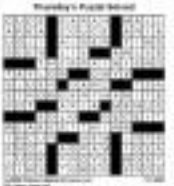
MEH — BY ADAMS SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD



By William E. Rickenbaker
Yonkers, New York

Thursday's Puzzle Solved



ACROSS
1 French pens
5 Ensemble
10 Kimono's accessories
14 Public digest
15 Wash
16 Wine Grape Girl
17 Damage Control official
18 Bathtub toilet
19 Wind-powered mill
20 Last letters
21 Ancient Greek theaters
22 Tower over (dress)
23 Homeless in life
24 R.E. Lee's nephew
25 Three-time pairs
26 Terrorist cell
27 Like some Democrats
28 Damage Control official
32 "Fair Lady"
33 Play in Elvira
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35 Bangkok's language
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HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku — By Dave Green

6								7
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Difficulty Level ★★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

4	1	2	6	9	1	6	5	3
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BENJAMIN and Nancy Angeles with Drs. Dennis Bitong, Juana Marie Bitong, Ken, Jun-Jun and Wendy Lanto Bitong

THE FABULOUS New York Opera Singers Tyson Deaton, Evelyn Lucas, Ryan Taylor, Lisa Woods Friedman and Victor Robertson

MILA Tandoy ng Pepsi

SKETCHIN Ogene Cajumpo, Camila Cajumpo and Isabel Chan

WORLD CLASS singer Mickie Mevers

JUDITH Duerk and husband Miguel Madrigal Yap pass with Papa and Lilibeth Campos

DOCTORS Magnolia Padilla and her husband Victor Lopez

TINA and Vince Carter

Opulent nights...

From page 81

The New York Opera Singers gave incredible performances of opera favorites. The group was composed of acclaimed talents, such as soprano **Lisa Pineda Tribelhorn**, mezzo soprano **Evelyn Lucas**, baritone **Ryan Taylor** and tenor **Victor Robertson**, with top pianist **Tyson Deaton**.

Their exceptional rendition of classical arias blew our socks off and brought the house down, effusing thunderous applause and "Bravos! Bravos! Encore!" from the appreciative socialite audience, darlings.

Shyness literally exited the ballroom with Mr. Ida Arcon, especially. For the finale, he joined the New York Opera Singers in performing the Italian pop song, "Che Bella Cosa" (What a Beautiful Thing).

As always the use of a theme/floral arrangement by **Margarita Romo** added to the glamour of the event.

Beloved Bayani was truly a memorable and unforgettable night, a concert that was entertaining while raising funds to improve children's lives.

Horoscop tsuot

Leave it to Hennessy to bring an air of opulence.

Hennessy unbound the cocoons of the event to create an awe cocktail mix made from raspberry puree and lemon juice, sprinkled with premium cherry brandy and elevated to the next dimensions with the addition of Hennessy VSOP.

The resulting drink was —bold—a crowd pleaser called "Hennessy Cocktail."

Apart from Hort Hennessy Asia Pacific Philippines' Axel Arpentinier, brand Object Jeanvion, escorted over the pond Orlando of the Rhodia Peninsula.

Our host, the ever charmant and handsome **Arnaud Hiroy Hennessy**, brand ambassador, gave an eyeful account of the history of the world-loved and expensive cognac, darlings.

"The Hennessy family and the Pilliam family have been in partnership in creating this number one cognac since 1765 until today."

There the grand feast began, darlings, with lobster bisque with shellfish salad (which I skipped, being allergic to it) delectably paired with Hennessy VSOP.

The main course, selengan, was the tenderloin succulent

SPLENDOURS in

RICHARD Tia, Sue Tiu, Johnny Litton and Ledurge VP Chuck Jurcic

LOUIE Locsin and Congressman Teddy Boy Locsin

ELIPSIS couple Beng and Rikki Dee

Opulent . . .

From page 11

dove-mustard milk-fed rib eye topped with truffle-mustard emulsion, veal reduction. This was paired with the region blended with 100 percent vine and aged up to 30 years.

The luxury experience reached its peak with the delicious final course, baby pear glazed with rhubarb sabayon, white chocolate mousse topped with passion fruit and raspberry coulis apple jelly.

It was paired off with the astounding Hennessy paradise blended with several hundred years-old eau, some of which date back to more than a century kept in the Founder's Cellar.

It was a fantastic way to end the one-of-a-kind gastronomic dinner. And Monsieur Merry said it all, "Hennessy the more you know, the more you appreciate." Amen, sir.

CWC bazaar

Can you believe it...palengke? The prestigious Caribelle Women's Club (CWC) was launched in 1983.

Well, these women have never stopped caring and helping the less fortunate. Now, for its last fundraising activity, it is again organizing "Clothes for a Cause," at the Glorietta, Ayala Center, Nov. 14-15, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. The activity is in cooperation with Ayala Land Inc. through the generosity of Blue Ridge chi Ayala, a member of the CWC.

Slightly used branded clothes, bags, belts and shoes, donated by celebrities, famous personalities and CWC members, will be sold at very low prices, palengke.

Proceeds will go to the profoundly disturbed children of Blue Ridge Village, one of Yeng Guiao's pet projects, palengke.

CWC president Chloe Bernardo Dychiquet and the event co-chairs, Mimi Valerio and Terry Tantoco-Ang, lead philanthropying committee to ensure the success of this one-of-a-kind bazaar.

Check it out! See you there, palengke.

OLGA Arjona, chief representative of Moet Hennessy Philippines, and Arnaud Merry, regional brand ambassador of Moet Hennessy Asia-Pacific

CLOTHES For a Cause Committee, 1st Row (back, L-R): Baby Dreis Carmina Montecon, Shirley Uy, Mimi Lozano and Carol Tagle; 2nd Row (L-R): Hanie Bautista, Lesty Hahn; Baby de Jesus; Bear Hugs; Tessie Rodriguez; Rein Lagdeo; 3rd Row (front, L-R): Nikki Valerio (daughter of Mimi Valerio; CWC president Chloe Pestaño; co-chairperson Terry Tantoco-Ang and Hanna Bautista

Surprise your family with a Red Ribbon Pasalubong Pack.

Get them to enjoy a delicious variety of pastries like
Ensaimada, Butter Cake, Tuscan Loaf, Banana Crunch, Mamon and a lot more.
Bring home something special today!

It's more beautiful with a Red Ribbon

Contributing Editors
Jenni Epperson
Agapito Alberto-Sudhoozi
and Ria Francisco-Prieto

Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan

LIFESTYLE Fashion

FYSHION FLASH FYSHION FLASH FYSHION FLASH FYSHI

Pretty and pink

TOYWATCH'S 'Skull'

Spotted: ToyWatch's Skull and Neon Plastronic Collections.

What's hot: The Neon Plastronic Collection comes in a snappy Plutonium Pink that is sure to keep you colorful in time.

This just in: ToyWatch is now available at Theodore's.

You know you love it: The Neon Plastronic Collection comes in Peppermint Green, Plutonium Pink, Ultra Violet and Atomic Orange.

Spotted: Nike Windrunner's latest collection goes heavy-metal.

What's hot: The Nike Windrunner comes in pink and other gun colors.

This just in: The Windrunner collection will be made available for a limited time only at Nike Park The Fort & Trivonna and Nike Stadium Greenbelt 5 from Oct. 31 onwards. For more information, visit www.nike-sportswear.com.

PHOTO 11

NIKE Windrunner in pink with gold hoodie

JJ PHILLIP Lace silk dress, Prada bag, Uberfinds leggings, candy necklace, pearl pearl necklace, pink studded earrings, Pete Wet yellow pump-ons heels

UBERFINDS Outfit inc: gown Prada, lace dress, satin sleeve shrug, pearl necklace, pink rose bib necklace, earrings H&M, leggings

Super place for super finds

Uberfinds is for the fashionista who regards clothes as art pieces, not mass-produced ensembles

Today, I had a little "me" time. The kids were in school, the house was tidy and quiet, and my work assignments were done. With the precious time that I had, I flopped on the sofa for a little R&R. A few moments had passed and I caught myself reminiscing of my high school days – and the urge to go through my old photo albums. Unlike recent family albums where I conveniently placed on a side table in the living room, the ones I was looking for were stashed away somewhere deep within my closet. After a few minutes of hide and seek, at last, I found what I was looking for! Though the albums seem to be on the verge of falling apart, I still adore my little treasure trove as it contains pictures of me with my high school classes.

As I was going through each and every photo, I was flooded by different emotions: but mostly of sheer delight. It was definitely a treat to see me and my friends again young, carefree and fresh-faced.

Although now that I'm older (and wiser), I know that I will always be jealous and fresh-faced in photographs. What's my secret? It's all about self-confidence, poise, posture and Ever Bilena Silver Collection Face Powder. Used alone or with make-up, this fine lightweight compact powder instantly eliminates shine and oiliness giving my face a matte yet polished and radiant-cool look. Moreover, it's enriched with Vitamin E to counter my skin by reducing tightening and dryness caused by harsh elements of the environment. Not only that, my face is given further protection by its natural sun-blocking agents.

Not only does Ever Bilena Silver Collection Face Powder have unwanted shine but it also a perfect medium to make make-up last for a longer period of time. Here's how:

• Your powder over your eyelash before and after putting on eyeshadows. Colors will stay vibrant all day long.
• Apply powder to your cheekbones before and after applying blush-on. This will help set and give your cheeks a naturally flushed look.
• Transform your regular lipstick to a long-staying one. Apply lipstick then blot with tissue. Then powder lightly over the lips, and then re-apply lipstick. Voila! This simple technique will keep your lipstick on for hours.

Do you have beauty tips and techniques that you would like to share? Send your emails to khs.gabriel@gmail.com.

THERE'S A SECRET place in Manila where you can find them all—Quiapo and Tutuban, Ermita and Cubao, Makati, Divisoria, Marikina and Lucena.

Call it a cupcake where all of fashion's misunderstood rubber bang out. Or, more likely, where they all hangs—literally, on the racks.

Welcome to vintage rags' store Uberfinds.

That is a haven for the finest fashion. It's for who regards clothes as art pieces, not as mass-produced ensembles. She loves the thought of going to a mini-museum (their store and finding her own piece of the same clothes in different sizes.

Uberfinds is a personal art gallery for fashion. It holds an impressive array of vintage designer clothes without the designer price tag. The average price for commercial brands ranges from P250-P500. High-end brands, as a rule, sell at around 1/3 percent of their original retail value.

Jenni J. Epperson

High quality

According to store owner Ali Ian Fernando, their clientele is a democratic fashion and is not afraid to mixed and in a crowd.

"They would rather buy high-quality original, one-of-a-kind clothes than buy low quality, mass-produced fashion or fake imitations available in malls or riangays. It's a nightmare for them to go to a place and see another person wearing the exact same outfit—which is not a problem in our store because we offer one piece per item only."

Fernando says there is a misconception about "vintage" in the Philippines.

"Most people think of vintage items as ukay-ukay, or having 'worn-looking' clothes. This is where we want to set our store apart from your ordinary 'ukay' all-in merchandise pass through strict editing to make sure they are trendy quality-controlled, clean and free from defects or the abuse of time, in a unique boutique set-up with a homey feel. Most of our items are key pieces that anyone can mix in their basic wardrobe and are guaranteed conversation pieces. We also want to give shoppers who love vintage clothes a store where they won't have to rummage through dirt and dust."

He adds that, in Europe especially, people have a high regard for vintage items. Most designers even get their inspiration from these items, which is why, "so they say, fashion goes and comes around."

Regular supply

Uberfinds' store owner who is friend of Fernando, who owns a vintage store in Germany named Tibet, started to send smaller sized clothes to his store in the Philippines. The clothes were left drained because his store was more of a "cute" closet.

Fernando remedied upon them and started to offer them to friends and relatives. Soon, he and his friend started joining bazaars and then opened their own store, all the while getting a regular supply of vintage clothes from Europe.

"Now, we still get items from my friend in Europe. There we also consigned items—items stylists and even some local celebrities and consigners—that are pre-screened."

"The store also highlights featured brands, trends, updates on what's hot—so if you've stepped into a fashion magazine. And we also offer styling tips and alterations."

The shop, open from 1 p.m. 11 p.m., is a spacious loft with sofas and dressers for a relaxing shopping experience, all thanks to Fernando's background in visual merchandising.

The fitting rooms are not secret with air-conditioning, and not mere corners covered with curtains. Therefore—with the lit-lit spotter on hour, the tchotchkes and the heartwood floors—gives off a nostalgic vibe of raiding your mother's closet to look for that perfect throwback dress-up outfit.

Of course, completing the attack is a little food break at the gate that serves banana cue and camote fritters. Midway to ourp and Gabriel Heur

Email the author at jhenjen@inquirer.com.ph

Uberfinds Vintage Fashion Store is located at 42 Sgt. Esguerra cor. Dapitan Lopez Jr. Sts., South Triangle, Quezon City (beside Rivers, front of Lost Restaurant). Open Monday-Saturday, 2 p.m., 11 p.m., Sundays by appointment. Call 7992634 or 0920-2048320, or visit http://uberfinds.multiply.com

UBERFINDS outfit: dress, Cutmaker hat, Miami Friend top and necklace, Cartier Happy Birthday Bella bag, Velvet leggings H&M, yellow leggings Miss Wet pumps heels

HAIR Jessie top: Cigarette bandeau top, plastic chandelier hoop pearl necklace, Miss Wet pumps heels

From page F1

Pretty and pink

You know you love it: The new Windrunner's silhouette has a modern cut—slightly tapered and more flattering on a woman's body. The lightweight shell is even lighter, built from super-breathable nylon and equipped with an updated hood that does away with a hood adjuster for a sleeker finish.

KIDROBOT Yado duffle bag

YADO wallet

Spotted: Rolando's Yado Little Rocker white Aqua in Resin Collection

What's hot: Lil' Kids Tote and Rocker bag

This just in: The Resin Collection for Fall 2008 is now available. You may purchase online at www.kidrobot.com.

You know you love it: The Kidrobot Yado collection comes in pencil pouches, large duffles and totes, all

YADO pencil case

TOTTWATCH Neon Plasmonic in Plasmonic Pink

WEEWILLOODLE for Sealy

Colorful mattresses on sale

This just in: Sealy, maker of the Posturepedic mattress, has launched its new line of Weewilloodle mattresses. Weewilloodle is a series of artist-produced designs that are inspired by the whimsical world of Weewilloodle, a fictional universe created by Weewilloodle artist Jeff Soo.

FYSHION BUZZ
Mint, handy, and useful

Hot: Weewilloodle equips different mattress pairs, sizes, and designs with different mattress pairs, plastic, walls. You name it and they will draw on it, say the group's members.

Not: The series of mattresses comes in different colors such as orange, gray, black, red, navy, maroon and khaki.

WEEWILLOODLE mattress cover

For more information, call 645-3411.

'Elegant Obama' inspires fashion label

TELA RED RIBBON. President-elect Barack Obama waves as he takes the stage at his election night party in Chicago's Grant Park, Tuesday, Nov. 4. AP

Magbigay Liwanag. Magbigay Pag-asa.

Makinig sa pagsusumikap ng isang bagong pamahalaan ng Pasig Sumali sa Mahusayang ang Pasig isang progresibong na lungsod Sama-sama nating mapagtagumpayan ang Pasig sa pamamagitan ng mahusayang ng tapat, bukas-isip at pinagkakatiwalaang pamahalaan para sa ating mahal na lungsod.

Halina sa pagpaparehistro sa Mahusayang ang Pasig kung saan ang mga residente ay maglalagay ng kanilang mga kamay upang tulungan ang Pasig na maging isang mas magandang lugar para sa ating mga anak.

WHO CAN JOIN AND WHAT ARE THE CATEGORIES?

WHAT WILL YOU WIN?

WHEN IS THE CAMPAIGN PERIOD?

HOW DO YOU JOIN?

HOW WILL YOU KNOW IF YOUR ENTRY QUALIFIES?

WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA FOR JUDGING?

HOW WILL YOU KNOW IF YOUR ENTRY WON?

HAIL IN BLUE. President-elect Obama, wearing sunglasses, arrives at Washington's Ronald Reagan National Airport. AP

SAMARIO—BRINGE OBAMA ELEGANCE and fashion scene has inspired a Bontoc company to name some line of men's business suit after the US president-elect.

"We chose the name 'Obama,'" for the suits, which were already selling well in Bontoc and neighboring Cervantes, said Ahmet Garbo, a manager of Bontoc, the company that produces the outfits.

"It is a line of top-quality business suits, and naming it 'Obama' was an obvious choice because the president-elect is already a very elegant man and one of a few who knows how to wear a suit," he told AFP.

Garbo added Bontoc also wanted to "pay respect" to the United States for providing the company with funds to help restart production after Bontoc's 1992-1995 war.

Based in the central town of Bontoc, Bronze is Bontoc's oldest clothing factory. It cooperates with several leading European fashion houses including Hugo Boss. AFP

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ACCESSORIES to the rescue

Deal with bad hair days

Try accessorizing—but one is enough, please

NEW YORK—BAD HAIR DAYS EXIST between stage where it's no longer a 'don't' look, but not quite long enough to be left each to a few lovely, easy goodie (look):

On most days, it looks more like a floppy mop than a marvelous mane, and I'm back in highschool. Hi, class all over again—hair-band acne, pen-tail hickeys.

Photo: China, drawn to the flip dyed

To put a cool spin on this very bland and cliché, I sometimes try to imagine Blair Waldorf and her cool prep-school highness. But instead, you're actually Leighton Meester or a cool member of "Gossip Girl" (complete with shiny hair extensions and perfect makeup), the hair-band-scrunchie combo can be quite a little tricky to real life, not to mention emotionally boring.

So what to do on tough days for messy? Here are some quick fixes:

Pick up a few accessories. From plastic to chunky, there is a whole slew of mane styles out there available for the taking, so drop your heart out. I am a big fan of scarves and headbands. I have at least five on fancy rotation.

The hitch is not looking juvenile (and lazy), where pulling your hair back with one of these is to drift down your hair either by brushing it out or applying a little product. Choose tortoise pieces made of waxed, natural shell, or patent. And when buying plastic, stick to classic colors like apple red, rich yellow and even black.

When accessorizing your crowning glory, follow this famous hint: "Too" is enough. Too is too much. Three is the person that will hit the person." (Two is actually still okay, by so long as the items don't clash.)

Try out the 'forkie.' This easy-to-do hairstyle was made famous a couple of years ago by Sarah Jessica Parker in "Sex and the City," but the most literal description of this is actually the dog ponytail commonly seen on "weirdos" for men who keep hair years from their eyes.

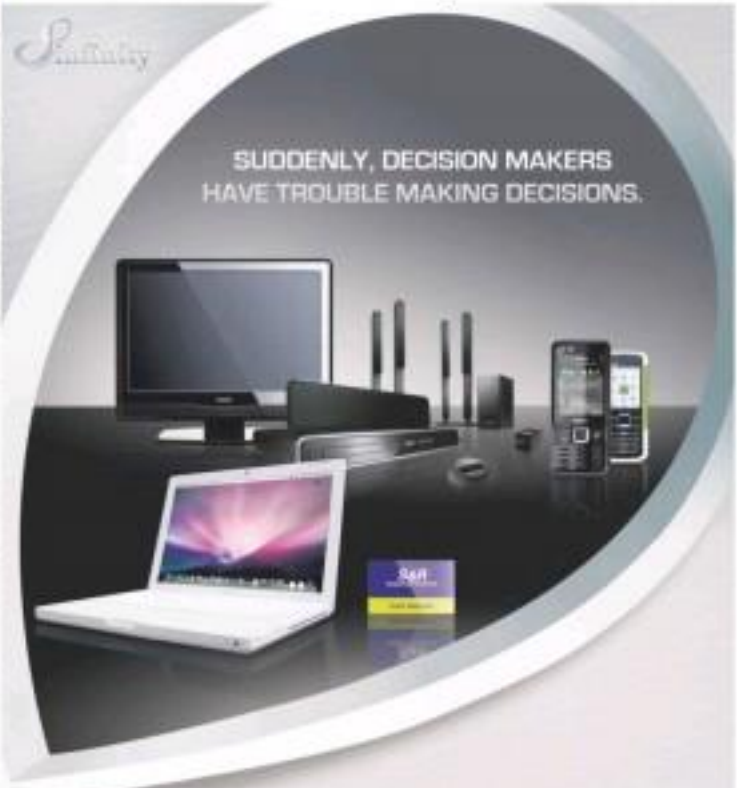
This style is great for straight-as-hair. You can either tease or back-comb strips there to get some volume, or just go straight ahead forming your top smooth and securing them with cute ornamental bands.

Go for the 'Ultimate Bun-ful.' You'll need lots of hair gel for this one. Grease enough to make product ooze in dribbles for the head. Using a fine tooth comb, gather hair up in the direction, smoothed ponytail and secure with a tight elastic.

If there's time, pull out a thin strand from the base of the elastic and wrap it around the ponytail, securing it with a pin. Finish with a swirl of hair spray.

I once wore my hair like my a couple of years ago, and my dad commented that I looked like Lorna Lapiedra. Which only meant that by looking like a seasoned politician (or an ear end of the spectrum, a cute prep student), I had survived yet another bad hair encounter.

Mariel Chua is the former beauty editor of Cosmopolitan, Seventeen and Q! Magazine. She is now based in New York City. Visit thyMarielNow.com.



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SMART

Brad's new project—plus more how to's

I ALMOST FELL FLAT ON MY FACE when I saw a huge lampoon displaying Brad Pitt's face at a Kiehl's product launch. Not only is he very good looking, actually, my first thought was, now people can see something Brad (and presumably Angelina) uses!

And I'm happy that it's Kiehl's. The entire sale of its skincare, biodegradable liquid body cleanser goes to support the global environmental initiatives of JPF Eco Systems. Plus, I must say it's one of the best Earth products I've ever used.

This has been a very exciting week for me. Aside from feeling closer to the Pitts and feeling like I'm being socially responsible (even subtly in the shower), I received a lot of e-mail on my skincare/acne woes (oh, and, dear, there are some more of them).

I've promised that my right eye is bigger than my left eye. How should I apply eye makeup to make them look even?

Eyeshadow applied right can do the trick for uneven eyes

Our eyes are not always symmetric. And you are right, eyeshadow can help make them look even. I wouldn't say it's in the shading of your eyelids, but this is a mild secret. It's better if someone can do your eye makeup while you observe, so you'll learn how to do it on your own.

Go to a makeup counter and tell the beauty consultant your problem. That way, she can help you on the spot and suggest products to use. Make sure to go to the makeup counter of good brands, because they have the best makeup artists.

After you get the technique down pat, you can just go get similar products that fit your budget.

BEAUTY WITH A CONSCIENCE

My son's feet stink. What should I get for him for security?

Make sure his feet are dry when he puts on his socks. Bacteria thrive in damp environments. If he doesn't have the patience to make sure the skin in between his toes are dry, at least air-dry it with an electric fan.

Next, make sure he doesn't use used socks. As shocking as this sure sound, some people do this. Also, use pumice more, as the odor may come from perspiration. Try to use an **antiperspirant deodorant on his feet...yes, I mean the kind used for the armpit.**

If his foot don't sweat but has odor, use the same, use The Body Shop's foot spray, which should do the trick. And here's a DIY remedy: shower with some Spray it on his feet, let absorb, then dry. Cornstarch should help with the smell.

I got my baby borrow pimples! The guy who pierced it said I should just pinch it up and down while in the shower, but one is per my meditator uses. Is that true?

The third no. You should push it up and down on the part that doesn't fall in your skin. You shouldn't use medicine since that will dry up the wound and cause it into a scab. You want your skin to heal on its own.

But you can cover tender with salt on the piercing while in the shower. The salt water solution is can prevent infections and will make your wound heal faster. Better yet, go to the beach and swim in the ocean.

I wash my hands a lot. My hands thinks I am a too much of a germ freak. Is it true that will dry my skin?

No. If you keep washing your hands, move on to over will dry your hands. Plus, if you use soap, that will make it better it. Try applying hand salve. I like Neutrogena's and Bobbi's. Also, you may want to check out anti-bacterial gels with built-in moisturizers.

Thanks for the e-mails!

KNOCKOUT!

Ria Francisco-Prieto

Beauty zone

COLOR RECON IN SM2

Quezon's new stand-alone boutique

After six years in the Philippines, The Quezon recently opened its first stand-alone boutique at the second level of Power Plant Mall's North Wing.

Beauty addicts describe it as "a heaven of Zen for beauty-ists," and many of them will likely feel like little girls in a candy store.

The boutique carries everything from foundation to lashes. Whether you're looking for a bridal look extension or setting for crazy, over-the-top lashes, the store is equipped with everything you need to transform yourself into a supermodel-ing queen.

From tattooing to work as consultants, group consultations, Effaces interested parties for the Atelier Learning Program (classes that teach customers everything about beauty), Blush sets home to some has got to covered.

Pinay talent

The shop's upcoming was also the occasion for Shu Uemura to honor 10 Filipino makeup artists who showcased their artistic talents in a show called Shiskara Reveal.

Isabel Rivera, Backstage Host

It was wonderful to see makeup that was out of the ordinary. Models walked around in bright eye colors—pop-art shades of orange and fuchsia. Some had succulent lips in hues of Beaujolais, and berry stains, while others kept it very Barbie-esque using shades of pink and cold rose.

Smokey eyes rendered in shades of mint green were my favorite.

The transition and conceptual

makeup expressions by Filipino artists.

A common piece of advice from them: "Don't be afraid of color. Makeup is one of the best ways to reveal a person's tension. An artistic color palette enhances one's individual beauty and allows for unique makeup expressions."

Win the war on seriously dry skin

DRY ITCHY SKIN IS THE MOST common beauty woe when the temperature drops.

The arms and legs become scaly, and our looks a lightness on the face and torso as if the skin were being pulled in different directions. One scratch and you're bleeding or scarred.

Taking a shower provides short-term relief as the water moisturizes our skin up to a few minutes only.

As some unsuspecting skin once again finds itself on the elevator to a heavy scrub has stripped the light of favors that looks excitement in.

There are many options available to you to make your feel great and smell wonderful as well.

Body cleanser

Dove is one from classic soap-free solid body bars. But if you have been using it all year round and it isn't of much help now, switch to the Body-wash.

Personally, I find the cleansing oils or solids Dove bar a bit greasy-scented, but I am pleasantly surprised at the Body Wash Beauty Moisturizer with moisturizers.

It's the most fascinating of the bunch and best for the driest of skin types as it leaves a protective film that looks moisturizer in.

It smells very clean but reasonably conducive for the entire time. It absolves no clash with another cologne.

The Exhilarating Body Wash smells great with a fresh lavender-inspired fragrance much like Clean's or Philosophy's Pure Grace, but it can feel drying for those with very dry skin.

It's best when

MAKEOVER 911

Kimmy Salas

nourished with the Beauty Moisturizers Body Lotion after bathing.

Shower oils

Elemisse Shower Oil is applied to damp skin in the shower, then further emulsified with water as it is massaged on from the neck down.

It sloughs off dry scaly skin while lifting off dirt and odor-causing bacteria. It rinses off clean without a greasy residue and leaves skin baby-soft. You relinquish, lasers and feet will thank you.

If your fragrance preferences are vanilla-based pick The Almonds (almond) Shower Oil, which smells like sugar-coated almonds.

If you prefer refreshing scents, Grapeseed Shower Oil which smells like fresh and grapes is more your style.

In true Elemisse tradition, the green smell lingers on long after you have left the bathroom. You can smell it on your body as well as on your towels.

The Body Shop Moringa Body Lotion is another shower oil as it is high on vitamin A, a key ingredient for moisture and antioxidant protection.

Moringa is actually makeup, which grows in most Filipino backyards and is a common leafy green found in soup.

The first to be noticed by dry skin and has a floral-green bouquet. Used by Ayurvedic medicine some 4,000 years ago, moringa seed oil comes from the moringa tree, which is native to northern India. It is known as the "miracle tree" due to its wide variety of beneficial uses.

In India as well as in the Philippine provinces, it is used as a natural antibiotic, aid in childbirth and in treating liver problems.

The oil was highly treasured by the ancient Persians, Greek and Egyptians civilizations for preserving the skin and for the making of perfumes.

I use the shower gel and body butter before bedtime whenever I am out of town and mask in an air-conditioned hotel room which robs the moisture off anyway.

Body cremers

Gloves is one brand I know that gives equal importance to the skin of the body as much as it does to the face. It has created a potent body treatment serum that goes before a pampering body moisturizing lotion to seal in potency.

After a shower, rose to new Lilacs and applies the recommended treatment from the neck down.

1. Clinique Renew Plus Body Serum Age defying. Concentrate—Pro-recommended for those aged 30 and above. It combines pro-Retinol vitamin A and wrinkle reducer to dissolve rough dead skin cells and revitalize one's body throughout the day. It

can soothe out wrinkles and helps discolorations so skin looks looking young.

2. Clarins Extra Smooth Body Lotion goes over the **counter** in some ingredients such as the herbier bud seasons the skin's luminosity for that glow. The Kakadu Plum extract from Madagascar, a Clarins exclusive, combines with peach tree blossom for hydration to make the skin soft, and the Hyaluronic acid, a gel like substance can hold up to a hundred times its weight in water to make the skin velvety-like glossy.

Note: All products mentioned have been evaluated by author.

Clarins is exclusively available at Rustan's. Elizabeth is at Enzmann.

Want good skin? Quit smoking

It's your best beauty regimen, along with constant moisturizing and sun protection

IT IS COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT smoking cigarettes is bad for your health. It has been associated with many ailments, including heart disease and cancer of the mouth, lungs and esophagus. Smoking also increases the chance of a heart attack or a stroke because it constricts the blood vessels, causing a reduction in blood flow.

It comes as no surprise then that smoking also has damaging effects on the skin. But can tell whether a person is a smoker or not based on his or her general appearance? Most often, pale complexion, dry skin, wrinkles formed around the eyes and mouth and a gaunt face.

"Even for a relatively young person, you can have that face if you've been smoking habitually for many years. You can notice the change as early as five years of smoking, and the longer you continue to smoke, the worse it will get," says Dr. Clarmarie Gonzales-Castillo, a fellow of the Philippine Dermatological Society.

Beth Misa, Perfect Style Model

A smoker gets that appearance because of restricted blood flow and oxygen to the skin, causing an ashy, pale or sometimes yellowish skin tone and premature wrinkles. The skin also rapidly ages due to vitamin C deficiency, since each cigarette robs your body of about 25 mg of vitamin C. And wrinkles are formed predominantly around the mouth and eyes because of the squinting and squinting motions that come with smoking.

Deep damage

Applying moisturizing creams may slightly improve the skin's appearance, but the damage lies deep under the skin.

"Smoking gradually destroys the levels of collagen on your skin, causing the skin to sag and wrinkle," says Castillo. Having cosmetic procedures done may be an option to revitalize skin, but since the body's ability to produce collagen is affected, there is a big possibility the results will be unsatisfactory.

"Smoking slows down the production of collagen, thus slowing down the body's ability to heal," says Castillo.

Second-hand smoke may not have the full effect that a smoker is up against, but being constantly exposed to cigarette smoke does have an effect on health, not to mention one's skin.

"Being in an environment where you're always breathing in smoke, you're already exposing yourself to half of the effects you would get if you were smoking yourself. The effects on the skin includes overall dryness and an increase in the production of free radicals," says Castillo.

Quitting smoking is your best beauty regimen, along with constant moisturizing and sun protection.

"It is best not to start at all. If you're smoking, it is better to quit, because the longer you stay on it, the more damage it will do to your skin. As a certain point, you cannot reverse the effects anymore," says Castillo.

Dr. Castillo's clinic is at San Juan de Dios Hospital.

Read more from www.ne.ht

HOLIDAY DELIGHTS AT THE ARANETA CENTER

Celebrate the best of shopping, dining and entertainment this season as Araneta Center brings you the hottest events and promos for the holidays!

The community comes together as Araneta Center celebrates another annual tradition with the Belen lighting at Farmers Market today at 6:30pm.

Sugar, spice and everything nice are set to delight kids and kids at heart with the opening of the Gingerbread House at the Rhandavia Oriental Cafe and Deli, Ilustrado Mall tomorrow at 10:30am. The Gingerbread House will be open all throughout the Yuletide season.

Shop for the most affordable Christmas finds with the Christmas Comes Early Sale! Up to 70% off on exciting selections made at all Araneta Center establishments from November 26 to December 7.

Get a chance to win a Manhattan Garden City unit with over P500 purchase with Araneta Center's Home Free! Home promo, along with 200 MP3 players up for grabs! Promo runs from November 7, 2008 to January 18, 2009.

Log on to araneta.com.ph for more updates.

Araneta Center

Coca-Cola

THIS CHRISTMAS, THERE'S MORE TO SHOPPING AT THE ARANETA CENTER

Giant Christmas Tree
Check out the nearly hundred-foot tall tree towering over the Araneta Coliseum, bedecked with more than 10,000 lights and hundreds of Christmas decorations!

Belen Lighting Ceremony
Celebrate the true meaning of Christmas with life-size images of the Nativity scene today at 6:30pm at Farmers Market

Gingerbread House Grand Opening
See a house made of real gingerbread & other edible ornamental treats tomorrow at 10:30am at Rhandavia Oriental Cafe & Deli, Upper Ground Floor, Ilustrado Mall

SALE
Christmas Comes Early Sale
Amazing discounts throughout Araneta Center to let you fulfill your holiday wishlist from November 26 to December 7

HOME free HOME
SHOP, DINE & DRINK Coca-Cola TO WIN A MANHATTAN GARDEN CITY UNIT
PLUS 200 MP3 PLAYERS
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Beat the Holiday Rush with SM City North Edsa's Pre-Holiday Specials!

Start your holiday shopping early! On November 14-16, head to SM City North Edsa to treat your family to great shopping finds at equally great prices.

Looking for a Christmas present for your husband? Wondering what to give your colleagues at work? Why wait for December? Grab the best shopping deals this month!

Enjoy 20-50% discounts from the following stores: Artwork, Aldo, The Body Shop, Cinderella, Daniel Hechter Boutiques, The Face Shop, Folded and Hung, Giordano, Hanglet, Kashieca, Kipling, Manel's, Marbitz + Francois Girbaud, Mossimo, My Shoe Rack, Nalkal, Onesimus, Otto, Prolino, Rusty Lopez, Toby's Sports, Union Hijo, and Wade. There's truly something here for everyone!

Then, after shopping, you can indulge in a hearty meal from SM City North Edsa's Food Court or any of the great dining choices available.

When you visit SM City North Edsa this month, you can be sure that there's more than shopping bargains to greet you. The entire weekend is filled with exciting shows and great music.

Christmas Happenings at The Block

Catch these month-long shows and performances at **The Block Atrium**

November 14 • 6 PM
Rodl Valdez
Let Rodl sacrifice and surrounds you with his classic songs.

November 18 • 1 PM
Nina, SOUL Children Ensemble
The country's favorite pop acts entertain you with their latest hits.

November 16 • 5 PM
Richard Poon
Enjoy the standards from today's hottest crooner.

November 21-22 • 10 AM
Barney Dino-Mite Birthday
Join Barney for a day of music, arts & crafts, and games!

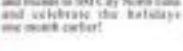
November 23
Power Rangers: Operation Overdrive Meet and Greet
Pose with your favorite character and learn their fighting moves!

November 29 • 5 PM
Christopher Cross
Be serenaded by American Grammy winner Christopher Cross.

November 30 • 10 AM
Doraemon Friendship Day
Fans can meet and greet Doraemon or spend a day of fun and games!

On stage at The Event Center

On **November 14, 5 PM**, catch **Rico Blanco** perform songs from his latest album at The Event Center.



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! So bring your family and friends to SM City North Edsa and celebrate the holidays one month earlier!

LIFESTYLE Fashion&Beauty

BAG ETIQUETTE

What bag to carry with what you wear

NO HOME boring black bags for business meetings with this color-coded Hermès Victoria.

By Ingrid Chua Go
Contributor

BAG "CRIMES" YOU ARE attending your best friend's wedding. It's a black-tie affair, so you get your hair and make-up done, and you wear haute couture. You get to the wedding reception. Everything is beautiful, and everyone is so stylish. And then you spot her—a beautiful guest wearing a Grecian gown. But what is she carrying? A Louis Vuitton Monogram Speedy. The first bag that most designer-loving bag bags wear to ever.

Make no mistake, this article is not about how designer bags are suddenly already—believe me, I am not one to renounce my love for designer bags. This is about proper bag etiquette—what to carry where and when you are wearing what.

Too often, women mistake their expensive designer bags as "all-occasion" bags, and while the temptation to carry your designer bag everywhere forgets me because you want to get mileage out of such an indulgent purchase, know when to give the bag a rest when it is not befitting to be carried to the particular event that you are attending.

To a casual party: A weekend children's party or a backyard barbeque almost always warrants you can throw casually a pair of comfortable denims with a nice khaki Patrese Monogram Neverfull tote is definitely acceptable.

Open totes are especially great to carry if you are a "park mt." Bag bags with children often denote this particular style to carry all children's parties because this open tote easily doubles as a diaper bag...the bag holds all necessary personal belongings as well as those of her children's.

To a business meeting: A stylish or mid-sized structured tote would work quite nicely with your business suit. The style of your bag needs to lean on the conservative side, but that doesn't mean it should be boring.

Instead of the more common and "safe" black color go for shades like taupe, graphite or even plum. A Hermès Victoria in colors like the fall. This cost-cost bag style is flawless because of its deadpan enclosure.

The Victoria is very practical in that you need not zip open your whole bag to take out your ringing phone.

A HERMÈS 28 cm Havane Crocodile Kelly worn with neutral-colored clothes for more business parties.

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JAK & JIL blog

Username: http://jakandjil.com/blog/
Password: A behind the scenes exclusive of editors, stylists, models and their amusing and lofted sense of style. Behind-the-scenes photos taken before, after and in between the London, Milan, New York and Paris fashion weeks.

Quick look: Pat Jakijil founder Tommy Tan, "Everyday is fashion week." Get regular updates on stylish fashion insiders and their anecdotes.

Add to favorites: If you're one of the cult followers of the likes of Kate "The Great" Lanphear (EIC Elle's Style Director), Vika, the Paris Vogue Editorial "Queen Team," or if you want to find out what makes Carine Roitfeld, Anna Dello Russo, Magdalena Frackowiak and Tom Vogue Fashion Director Gloria Sinaite are standing down the runways of NY, Milan and Paris, this is the blog to add to your read list.

Username: http://fakeKarl.blogspot.com/
Password: "Karl Lagerfeld's Guide to Life"—musings of a fake Karl Lagerfeld and his fake entourhomies, including the Kawaiiahu, Anna Wintour, Dior Grove and Yves Saint Laurent wannabes. This "fake" blog is the real deal!

Quick look: Who could be snidier and more comical than Karl Lagerfeld? Fake Karl and his fake concubinettes talk about anything fashion with no holds Bink.

Add to favorites: In this day and age of reality TV shows, sometimes the real deal becomes boring. Occasionally, it's refreshing to read something "fake," like this blog.

Username: http://www.refinery29.com/
Password: Your online destination for discovering the latest and the best in independent fashion and retail.

Quick look: The latest street trends served in full-pixel photographs, plus fresh music updates and the latest casual scenes. The site keeps your style compass pointed up with to travel and shopping guides.

Add to favorites: Refinery29.com has user-friendly shop maps, definitive city travel diaries, monthly designer features, street style shots, mood updates, must-have and music reviews. All

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If you've ever dieted, exercised, or even undergone surgery to remove unwanted fat, you know that certain parts of your body have fat deposits that simply won't go away.

That's why Zunic developed its unique Slimming and Body Sculpting Methodology™, to give every one the chance to make their bodies look perfect.

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Limited slots available. Book your appointment now!
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1 Restore your optimum metabolic rate with METABOLIQUE™!

If you've been gaining weight while your eating habits have not changed, it means that your metabolism is slowing down.

Zunic's Metabolique™ treatment uses the cutting-edge Photon Metabolic Accelerator to speed your metabolism back up – in a 30-minute session is equivalent to three hours of exercise!

Clinical tests conducted by NASA, Stanford University, and the Mayo Clinic have proven that photon therapy increases blood circulation, and enables your body to purge itself of toxins and burn fat more effectively.

2 Experience dramatic fat reduction without traumatic surgery with CONTOURAGE™!

"We finally have technology that clearly is making a difference. I believe [X-Contourage™] is the best technology we currently have for cellulite reduction," said David Goldberg, M.D., Clinical Professor of Dermatology at Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, NY.

Contourage™ is the safest and most effective non-surgical treatment to reduce fat deposits resistant to diet and exercise. Proven to penetrate deep fat layers to target stubborn fat, leaving no swelling or bruising. Recovery time is zero, and the dissolved fat is eliminated by your body naturally.

You could transform into more shapely thighs and legs, even lighter faces – often in as little as 45 minutes!

3 Feeling Bloated? Flush out toxins and say good-bye to water retention with CELLULIGHT™!

Cellulight™ gets rid of that bloated feeling by combining deep tissue stimulation, localized cooling, and rhythmic massage to relieve the body of excess fluid and promote lymphatic drainage.

"It is believed that fine new infrared diode laser penetrates the fat cells and creates in them ability to rupture," says Richard Weiss, M.D., Assistant Professor of Dermatology at John Hopkins University School of Medicine.

By removing excess fluid, flushing out toxins, and accelerating fat metabolism, Cellulight™ dramatically takes away years from your appearance. The immediate result is tighter, more luminous skin, and a more vibrant appearance.

4 Let ACCUTONE™ provide you with intensive workouts, without the effort!

Representing the latest advancement in Electronic Acceleration Management (EEAM) technology, Accutone™ uses electrical impulses to accurately stimulate selected muscle groups, thereby simulating intense physical exercise. It's the way ultimate exercise on space voyagers!

Result: circulation is increased, metabolism is improved, and your body tightens up the way it does after a strenuous workout.

Accutone™ removes saddle bags and heavy flabby arms. It restores muscle elasticity and tightens your skin better than any physical workout. All while you stretch out comfortably on the treatment couch!

5 Make unsightly stretch marks disappear with FIBRASE™!

Having a baby or going on a crash diet can leave ugly stretch marks.

That's why you need Fibrase™. Its mild scientifically advanced way to restore lost elasticity and promote the development of softer, more supple skin. Using radio waves to reach underlying tissue, Fibrase™ stimulates collagen production, erasing stark ripples and levelling out skin fields. Your body becomes smoother and more radiant, as if the episode never occurred!

6 Let PURELASE™ give you youthful, radiant skin that defies aging!

Wrinkles? Crow's feet? Age spots? Rough skin? Purelase™ can do more for you than expensive anti-aging creams or painful surgery.

Purelase™ combines lasers, gentle massage, and cryogenic stimulation to increase microcirculation in the face and actively promote skin renewal.

As newer skin emerges, your facial features become more vibrant and smoother. Wrinkles is reduced, superficial scars vanish, and rough spots disappear. Purelase™ can take years off your appearance, with no recovery time required.

7 Get a non-surgical facelift with ULTRALIFT™!

Chubby cheeks and double chins are caused by fat layers beneath the skin of your face.

To correct these unsightly features, UltraLift™ uses heat pulses to melt the underlying fat, and flush it away using the body's natural processes. At the same time, UltraLift™ stimulates collagen production to tighten the surface skin, eliminating loose folds and creating a more radiant, youthful appearance.

Recovery time is zero. You can actually show off your new look the very same day!

8 Experience painless, needle-free mesotherapy with ARELIS™ Therapy!

Unlike conventional mesotherapy which uses multiple injections to deliver fat-dissolving serums to fat layers beneath the skin, Zunic's new Arelis™ treatment uses the principle of electroporation to do away with needles.

A special wave-pulse generating machine momentarily opens skin pores to allow the safe passage of LipoElutes™, a powerful fat-dissolving serum, to the targeted fat layers below. Because no needles are used, there is no pain and no risk of infection. Nerve damage is mitigated, and there is no bruising or discoloration.

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SM MEGAMALL Annex Tower, EDSA Ave., Ortigas Center

Zunic
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THIS PENSHELL rainwalker's by Artisan complements an evening gown.

What bag to carry with what you wear

From page 10:

Leave your big bag

To a cocktail party: Wearing a dress? Leave your big monogrammed designer bag at home and carry a clutch or pochette (small pouch bag) instead.

I recommend a Bottega Veneta weave clutch in black. This is one of those compact designer bags that would get a lot of mileage if you frequently attend parties. The signature woven Intrecciato weaving is present but is subtle. The bag spells discreet elegance and won't overpower your look.

If the invitation says "beat-wear attire", you may also invite upward criticism from pundits if you carry a mid-sized designer bag like the Chanel medium classic flap or a 20-cm Hermes Kelly.

HERMES 35-cm red Birkin is perfect for lunch/lunch or intimate dinners with friends.

To a "black tie/ long gown" affair: Do not carry a monogrammed designer vest, a big bag or your Hermes Birkin—even if it's an irresistible eye-popping shade that could inject more pizzazz to your ensemble.

Your bag may be the most expensive piece of "accessory" but it is certainly not the most suitable for the occasion. Save yourself from a fashion faux pas—do not carry a big, bulky bag.

I've seen so many women-patrons date graces with monogrammed satchels and even big bags at weddings and I have to say, the look just does not work at all.

Carry a nice, compact minaudiere instead. Antique minaudieres made from python, sharkskin or pearlized would complement your attire for the night.

At the end of the day you need to understand that not all bag styles are appropriate to be carried for all occasions. Learn how to edit what you put into your bag so you need not lug around a huge purse when you attend parties.

The general rule for carrying bags to more formal affairs is less is more—meaning the smaller the size, the better. If you refuse to spend big money on designer clutches and minaudieres, don't fret. Local bag stores like Carlson, Tiet and Avanzar also stock smaller bags with removable pieces, and they won't get you broke for the next three months.

The bottom line is this—never let your bag ruin your look.

IF YOU go to cocktail parties often, this Bottega Veneta woven clutch in black will go a long way.

UP Cherubim and Seraphim in concert

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE Philippines special children's choir, the UP Cherubim and Seraphim, will celebrate the University's centennial with a concert titled "Make My Life a Little Song."

Featuring alumni singers and the current batch of the choir, the concert will be held Nov. 22, 7 p.m. at the Abelardo Hall Auditorium, UP College of Music, Diliman, Quezon City.

The concert will also feature UP College of Music professor Flora Lucia Rivera who conducted the choir with 20 elementary-school children invited from the College's Saturday Music Enrichment classes.

Since that day, Sept. 11, 1971, the UP Cherubim and Seraphim has been devoted to exploring the capabilities and possibilities of the 11-piece-child's voice.

The concert will feature alumni groups representing the different generations of the UP Cherubim and Seraphim.

Reno Simmons (Flora Vasco) is composed of alumni from batches 1971-1988.

Gossamer Wings is a group representing the choir's alumni from 1988-1999, while In Transit is made up of alumni from 2000-2008 who are now in college.

Lately, some the Apprentices, members of the choir who will be performing for the first time onstage since they joined the UP Cherubim and Seraphim this year.

The current choir will sing representative songs from the group's wide repertoire, as well as new works composed and arranged for them by Carlos Picaro and Augusto Espina.

All the groups will be conducted by Elena Rivera Mirasol, director and daughter of the founder.

Then will be accompanied by pianists Jose Ceferino Buenaventura Guevara, Soledad Reyes Ilustrisima, Michelle Nicolasora and Rosanna Macapinlac.

Tickets are available at the Department of Art Studies office, Abelardo Hall (Bascon Center Room 20068) Tel: 981-8500 loc. 3705220.

LIFESTYLE Fashion&Beauty

CEBuTown and Manila imports take to the catwalk at the grand ballroom of Waterfront Cebu City Hotel & Casino for the Samsung Mobile-sponsored fashion show.

Fitness.Fashion in the South (part 1)

GUEST model Teresa Mendonsa, top-rated event stylist and Cebu's arbiter of style

Maxed out

Arcy Gayatin + Technomarine

INQUIRER LIFESTYLE Fitness.Fashion has gone South—and it could only be a good thing.

The now-successful franchise featuring activewear and top designers received a warm, sun-ball-room-filled welcome in the Queen City over the weekend, following a triumphant debut last July in Manila.

Presented by Samsung Mobile with the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel & Casino, Fitness.Fashion had Cebu's elite either walking the runways or taking front-row seats to show us their pants.

There were, among others, Cebu City Vice Mayor Mike Rama, who modeled for Anthony Nocum + Mike Coll; Silverblend's new general manager Marco Frondo for Randy Ortiz + Folded & Hung; socialites Jacquelin Uscilles, Elvira Leyva, Margie Uscilles and Teresa Mendonsa, modeling, respectively, for Randy Ortiz + Folded & Hung, Lizy Santiago + Folded & Hung and Arcy Gayatin + Technomarine.

INQUIRER Lifestyle's pace-setting fashion series gets hip but regal in the Queen City of Cebu

Aside from boutique and tuxedo, Cebu's fashion directory was also represented by six other designers: Philip Rodrigues (Sta Nazionale), Francis Empeyo (Mike Tolf), Jun Rizada Opendek, Gi Reder (Gizmoblue), Lord Macaraeg (Pendragon) and Edwin An, who, with Manila's James Reyes, created pocket collection for YOY magazine, which had its launch down lunch also last weekend.

The show, directed by Jackie Aquino and hosted by J&J and Super's Bianca Consunji and model Tyrahn Cuizon, also included other Manila fashion heavies like Louis Claparols and Joey Samson (for Kipling), Lolo Jao Gen (Speedo) and Ebon Sala (Technomarine).

(Berthe E. Mortal)

See more photos on A2, 13 and 168

GUEST model Anaya Ito Uscilles, jeweler and philanthropist

GUEST model Marco Frondo, Watchfreak GM and president of the Hotel, Resort and Restaurant Association of Cebu

Gothic romance

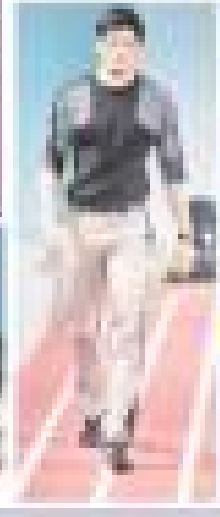
Randy Ortiz + Folded & Hung

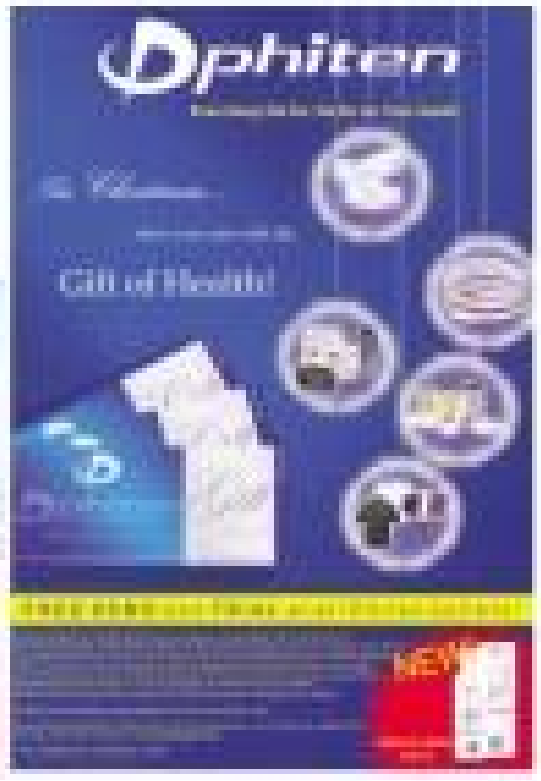
CHARRIOL and the Kimono Collection: A hymn to nature

Grey area

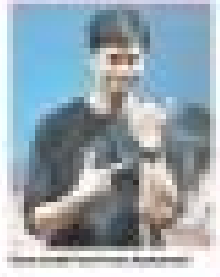
Speak volumes

Fitness, Fashion in the South (part 1)





Velvet revolution



Preppy cool

Big city

Take the QualiBet safety test!

Nowadays, one concern for consumers is the safety of the products they use. Whether it's the food they eat or the medicines they take, consumers want to be assured that the products they buy are safe and effective.

The global proliferation of counterfeit products and substandard medicines has also increased consumers' concerns about product authenticity. The problem is even worse in developing countries, where poverty and lack of information make consumers more vulnerable to buying fake products.

Counterfeiting is also known to affect the pharmaceutical industry, which is losing billions of dollars annually to counterfeiters. Counterfeit medicines are those that are produced and sold illegally, without the knowledge and consent of the original manufacturer. They may contain the wrong ingredients, the right ingredients in the wrong amounts, or no active ingredients at all. They may also be packaged to look like the genuine product, making it difficult for consumers to tell the difference.

The consequences of using counterfeit medicines can be severe. They can lead to treatment failure, drug resistance, and even death. In addition, counterfeiting undermines the legitimate pharmaceutical industry, which invests heavily in research and development to bring new and effective medicines to market.

To combat this problem, it is important for consumers to be aware of the risks and to take steps to protect themselves. This includes buying medicines only from reputable sources, such as licensed pharmacies, and checking the packaging for signs of tampering. Consumers should also be wary of prices that are too good to be true, as counterfeit products are often sold at a fraction of the cost of genuine products.

In addition to these precautions, consumers can also use technology to help them verify the authenticity of their medicines. Some companies are now using track-and-trace systems, which allow consumers to scan a code on the product packaging to check its origin and history.

By taking these steps, consumers can help to protect themselves from the dangers of counterfeit medicines and support the legitimate pharmaceutical industry.

Fitness.Fashion in the South (part 1)

Rihanna and Chris Brown Live in Taguig and Backed-up by Pioneer

Philippines, November 2008 - The much anticipated back to back Rihanna and Chris Brown concerts on November 16 is set to strengthen the Philippines' position as a key artist destination in Asia, and Pioneer, one of the country's leading event insurers, is leading role of that.

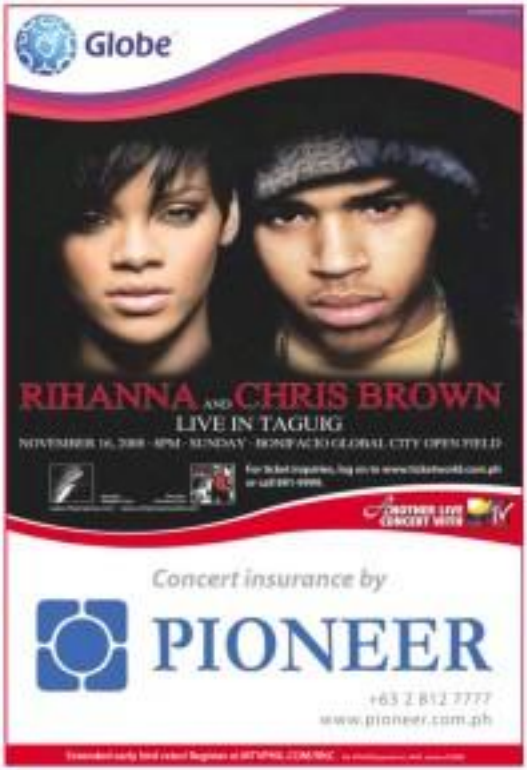
Out of the Bonifacio Global City Open Field in Taguig, the "Rihanna and Chris Brown Live in Taguig" concert coverage represents the latest in a series of engagements Pioneer has had with MTV Philippines where Pioneer has provided a variety of insurances for concerts produced by MTV.

Pioneer has stood behind the concerts of world-class talents most recently counting Beyonce, Alicia Keys, George Benson Al Jarreau and the Eraserheads reunion among others, in addition to exhibit coverage for esteemed Filipino artists most recently including the Art Our Heart, the Artscape Retrospective.

Having sponsored and provided comprehensive coverage for numerous artists, shows, and events of local and foreign artists, Pioneer, by way of its support for culture and arts, has also contributed to the growth and awareness of world-class talents and Pinoy pride.

SAMSUNG Mobile's Hylene Gabriel gives away mobile phones to two members of the audience

SANDY Prieto Romualdez, Inquirer president and CEO; Margie Lhuillier, Hylene Gabriel of Samsung; Cary Santiago; Petra Lupisc and Ronald Pineda, president and CEO of Poland & Hong



TERESH Mendezona, Arry Goyarin and Rafael Marsecio, CEO of Rotterdam Philippines

ETHF Cabal, FOLI magazine editor-in-chief; Edwin Ao, Cybill Bayaan, and Jinggoy Gullarte, Nielsen representative and managing director of Pilot Consulting

JAMES Reyes and Annette Quesada

TEPITO Chavez, INQUIRER VP for Advertising; Enrico Benedicto, Fiona King, Philip Rodriguez, Vanessa Grigaravs, Christine Garcia-Cuebio and Almil Sarmiento, managing director of A.L. Ammoun, sub-distributor of Hanabishi

JAVI Gil, Louis Claparols, Kathy Tovers and Benjamin Co, president of Greyhound Marketing Corp., Philippine distributor of Kipling

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LIFESTYLE Fashion & Beauty

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Fitness.Fashion in the South (part 2)

Presented by Samsung Mobile with the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel & Casino, the grand style feast featured Cebu's elite gracing the catwalk, to the lusty cheers of their kin and pals

See photos on page E2 and E3

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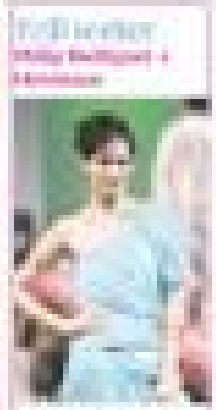
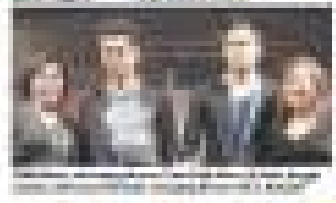
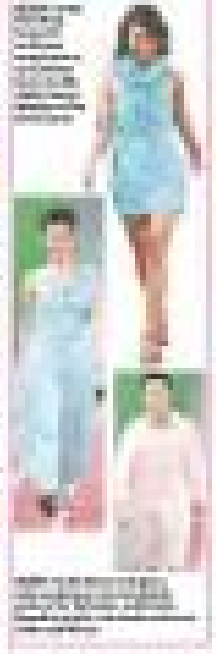
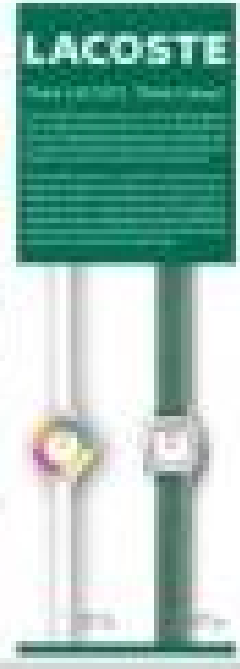
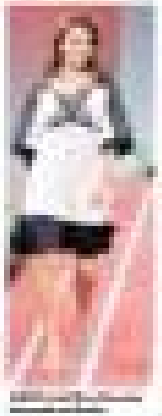


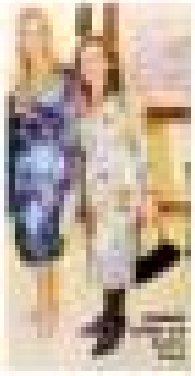
Fitness Fashion in the South (part 2)

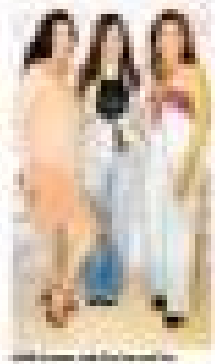


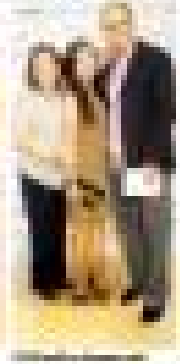


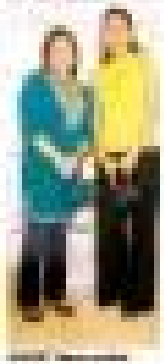












Cosmetics giant's holiday collection

ESTEE Lauder Solid Perfume collection of Pleasures Candy Cane, Pure White Linen Holiday Star, Beautiful Lollipop, Project Love Gingerbread Man and Youth Dew Garden Carrot

IN KEEPING WITH THE HOLIDAY tradition of Estee Lauder, he dazzled with this year's much-anticipated Solid Perfume and Powder Compacts limited edition collection. Inspired by the sweet treats of Christmas, the wonders of nature and icons of the world, the collection boasts of vibrant colors, spectacular crystals and dynamic moving parts.

The collection was recently launched at The Galleria of Sunway Mikasa, where it is exhibited until Dec. 16.

Among all the elaborate collectibles, three standout Solid Perfumes will be available in the country, exclusively at Isetan's. The first is Pleasures Candy Cane, which is a candy cane shaped compact with gleaming red and golden stripes, revealing a bottle of the fresh, citrus floral Pleasures scent. There is also Beautiful Lollipop Twist, a bottle of the floral scent Beautiful encased in a lollipop-shaped, itch-proof crystal compact. And there is Pure White Linen Holiday Star. Pure White Linen is a bright, floral perfume bursting with the scents of red tulips, camellias, snow white flowers and sparkling raspberry. It can be found inside the star-shaped crystal that comes with a red ribbon so you can hang it on your Christmas tree.

The Estee Lauder Holiday Spectacular Resort also introduced the brand's holiday collections of fragrances and makeup. Some of the Christmas stocking-ready sets include Pleasures To Go, comprised of perfume spray, body lotion and perfume spray pen (a no exclusive gift box that she would want to hang with her anywhere she goes; Beautiful Romantic Instincts, consisting of perfume spray, body lotion, shower gel and body powder with; and perfect for any romantic getaway; and Small Wonders, a collection of fragrances in purse sizes. Estee Lauder Pleasures, Pure White Linen, New Estee Lauder Sensuous, Beautiful, Youth Dew and Estee Lauder Beyond Paradise.

For make-up fanatics, there's the Estee Lauder Professional Makeup Artist Color Collection, a beautiful make-up kit brimming with powders, blush, eyelids, gloss, eye shadow palette, pencil crayons and mascaras.

Estee Lauder is available at all Isetan's department stores.

THE ESTEE Lauder Beautiful Holiday gift pack of perfume, body powder, lotion and bath shower

LIVING Stars

Celso Bonoan G. Velarde

What Rudy told Mark

MARK ANTHONY FERNANDEZ, TALKING to Mel's Health magazine about things he learned from his father, the late Rudy Fernandez: "He said, 'Give life your all. Making Plan B, sidang Plan C. Relax ou-Anhar.' As he lay dying on screen, Mark said, Rudy's directions was "to live my life, so that my life would [exercise, too."

OVERHEARD

HK DISNEY

LEA Salonga brought daughter Nicole, or HK Disney fans reckoned. During the brief show at the park's Philharmagic theater, Nic recognized her famous mom's voice when "A Whole New World" played in 3D. "That was mine," Lea says. At left, Nic takes across from look-and-sound-alikes Eleanor "Ellie," or grandma Gigsie.

Really uncool, Jen says of Angie's tale

NEW YORK—REPORTER ANSWERS says Angelina Jolie was out of line when she spilled details about her relationship with Brad Pitt.

In the December issue of Vogue, Aniston talks about the magazine's 2007 profile of Jolie, who related growing chemistry with Pitt—then married to Aniston—while shooting "Mr. & Mrs. Smith" in 2004.

Aniston says, "I felt those details were a little inappropriate to discuss. 'But stuff about how she couldn't wait to get to work every day? That was really uncool."

Pitt and Aniston, who were married in July 2000, announced their separation in January 2005 and divorced in October.

Of Pitt, Aniston says, "I have nothing but absolute admiration for him ... I think he's really done some amazing things!" AP

ANISTON on the cover of Vogue's December 2008 issue of the magazine. At right, Angelina Jolie.

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2 MADAGASCAR 2: ESCAPE to AFRICA
3 THE WOMEN
4 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3
5 PASSENGERS
6 THE HOUSE BUNNY / JAMES BOND 22
7 KUMAR
8 IndieSine: WALANG KAWALA
9 CITY of EMBER
10 MY ONLY U

ERMITA

1 PASSENGERS
2 MADAGASCAR 2: ESCAPE to AFRICA
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5 THE WOMEN
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METRO EAST

1 PASSENGERS
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5 CITY of EMBER
6 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3
7 THE HOUSE BUNNY
8 MY ONLY U

NOVALICHES

1 MADAGASCAR 2: ESCAPE to AFRICA
2 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
3 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3
4 MY ONLY U

PIONEER

1 MADAGASCAR 2: ESCAPE to AFRICA
2 THE WOMEN
3 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
4 PASSENGERS

STA. ROSA

1 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
2 MADAGASCAR 2: ESCAPE to AFRICA
3 MY ONLY U
4 NIGHTS in RODANTHE

LIPA

1 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
2 MADAGASCAR 2: ESCAPE to AFRICA
3 MY ONLY U
4 THE STRANGERS

DASMARINAS

1 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
2 MY ONLY U
3 STRANGERS
4 MADAGASCAR 2: ESCAPE to AFRICA

IMUS

1 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
2 MADAGASCAR 2: ESCAPE to AFRICA
3 MY ONLY U
4 STRANGERS

ANGELES

1 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
2 MADAGASCAR 2: ESCAPE to AFRICA
3 MY ONLY U
4 NIGHTS in RODANTHE

STARMILLS

1 MADAGASCAR 2: ESCAPE to AFRICA
2 NIGHTS in RODANTHE
3 LIVING HELL
4 MY ONLY U
5 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
6 TROPIC THUNDER

BACOLOD

1 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
2 MADAGASCAR 2: ESCAPE to AFRICA
3 MY ONLY U
4 STRANGERS
5 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3
6 WALANG KAWALA

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1 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
2 MADAGASCAR 2: ESCAPE to AFRICA
3 MY ONLY U
4 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3
5 EAGLE EYE
6 THE CHANTING 3

Raymond's world in black and white

Singer launches an exhibit of photographs

By Ayumi San Diego-Jr.
Photos by Raymond Lauchengco

SINGER RAYMOND LAUCHENGCO SAYS photography allows him to combine all of his passions.

"A photographer is part director, part set designer, part lighting technician," he explains.

As self-confessed "visual person," Lauchengco first became fascinated with set design and lighting as a teen scene in Repertory Philippines.

In the 1990s, he plunged into photography and pursued it professionally in 2006.

He recalls: "I've been through the cameras ... all of them. But I've been of Nikon ever since college. But for medium-format, I use Hasselblad."

He switched to "digital" this year because he wanted to document every milestone in his baby girl Hendrielle's life.

In time for his birthday this month, he is presenting an exhibit dubbed "Timelapses" which runs at the Ayala Museum from Nov. 17 to 30.

As the title suggests, the collection contains records of his journeys — to Beijing, Cornwall and Phuket, to name a few.

"THIS cypress tree is Carmel, California, in one of the most scenic I've ever seen," says singer Raymond Lauchengco (inset).

Now that I've come back to singing, I get to travel a bit," he says. "Doing art shows at different places is very fulfilling. I guess it's my way of sharing the world's beauty with others."

For future exhibits, he hopes to capture "on film or memory card" such destinations as New Zealand, China and in Europe, Italy, France, Greece and the Czech Republic.

"An architectural detail of a building in the Forbidden City in Beijing."

SHANG CINEPLEX

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2 MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA
3 THE WOMEN
4 MADAGASCAR
QUANTUM OF SOLACE

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RUFFA GUTIERREZ

THE BOOK "LEAP OF FAITH: MEMOIRS of an Unexpected Life" by Queen Noor is a birthday gift from my husband, Jason Lillis. I asked him why he gave it to me and he said it's because Queen Noor's life is admirable. I'm really interested to learn more about her and her journey. She's an American woman who ended up marrying a Muslim man—King Hussein of Jordan. She has achieved a lot and continues to change her world for the better.

Reyniel San Diego Jr.
Assistant entertainment editor

MONICA LLAMAS

MY GEEK IS INTO the novels of James Rollins. She introduced me to him and now I'm hooked. I've read five of his books so far—the latest is "Subterranean." They're not just thrillers. A lot of history and research also went into each story. If you're sick and tired of "The Da Vinci Code," Rollins offers a unique perspective on things. He takes readers to exotic places like the Himalayas.

Reyniel San Diego Jr.

BOOKS

MIKEE LEE

THE FIRST TIME I GOT TO READ PAULO Coelho's "The Alchemist" was in first year high school. At that time, I had this little dream: to join the basketball team. I got so inspired by this book that I kept on practicing. I especially like Page 23 because it explains the idea of Personal Legend, or how you realize what your dream is and how nothing can stop you from trying to achieve it.

Michael B. Cruz

RACHELLE ANN GO

THE BOOK "WHEN GOD WRITES YOUR love Story" by Eric and Leslie Ludy made me cry. It was given by (ex-boyfriend) Christian Bautista. It's really inspiring. Today's women want love relationships recklessly. This book encourages young people to love responsibly. I highly recommend it to those who are having romance problems. You don't have to rush to your search for your partner. Just sit back and relax and God will find the right person for you. Every day, I also try to read a chapter of "Checklist for Life for Women: Timeless Wisdom and Feel-Good Strategies for Making the Most of Life's Challenges and Opportunities" (Edited by Lila Ferguson). It's very helpful. If you're feeling sad, read the section on heartburn. Or not, it will improve your mood.

Reyniel San Diego Jr.

Chin-Chin's favorite reading fare

IN THE NATIONAL BOOK Development Board's (NBDB) "Get Caught Reading" campaign, actress Chin-Chin Gutierrez declares her love for the written word.

She likes reading the Bible, the Koran, and the Granth Sahib (Sacred Book of the Sikh Religion). Also among her favorite books are "Philippine Marxist Mischief" by Ike Sabio, De Hermes Gutierrez, "Golden Secrets of Eternal Love" by her mother, Cecilia Arnaldo-Gutierrez, and Kahlil Gibran's "The Prophet."

Chin-Chin has lent her support in "Tulaan sa Tren," the NBDB and the Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA) readership promotion campaign, reminding the patrons of literary greats Nick Joaquin, KGM Thorpe and Marra Lanot. There are now being heard on the LRT's public address system.

Other celebrities who have participated in the project are Iza Calzado, Mariane Quirubin, Nikki Gil, Lyn Ching Pascual, Christine Reyes and Nichole Hosaka.

CHIN-CHIN Gutierrez

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Aretha greatest singer in rock era

LOS ANGELES—SHE'S ALREADY THE QUEEN OF SOUL, BUT now Aretha Franklin has been named the greatest singer of the rock era in a poll conducted by Rolling Stone magazine. Franklin, 66, came in ahead of Ray Charles at No. 2, Elvis Presley at No. 3, Sam Cooke at No. 4 and John Lennon at No. 5, according to the magazine's survey of 179 musicians, producers, Rolling Stone editors, and other music-industry insiders. Reuters

DID YOU KNOW...

Impish fairy's heart broken

By Marinel R. Cruz

YOUNG ACTRESS JULIEN Lyna said the recent death of her grandmother has caught her that, indeed, life is short.

"I wish I had been more expressive at home. I felt about her," Fineben told Inquirer Entertainment on Tuesday during the launch of her new Kapuso soap, "Lyna Mystica."

Bienvenido Jimenez, 63, was robbed and shot while on his way to a public market in his Cruz, Manila, on Nov. 5.

"She was in the pink of health, walking adult," Fineben said on Tuesday.

The incident happened on the soap's first taping day. She found it hard to concentrate, Fineben said, "because I journey a quirky, playful character."

In the series, Fineben—who starred 20 on Saturday—is Adan, one of two fairies who watch over Lyna, played by Heart Evangelista.

"I still had to smile and act happy, though deep inside I wanted to cry," the actress said. "But, I don't blame God. I'm sure He has His reasons. I'm just trying to understand."

"My head still leans from all the crying," said Fineben. "But I'm okay now." She took a weeklong leave from her hosting chores on "Eat Bulaga." Jimenez was buried earlier on Tuesday.

Fineben said she last spoke with her kin by phone 30 minutes before the shooting, to discuss preparations for Fineben's birthday party. "We were to hold it at Adan B's house, and she promised to cook."

On Monday, Fineben said, party food—aping rolls, fried chicken and rice cake—arrived at the Lyna house in QC. "We didn't know she had ordered those. I felt very sad," she recalled. "She was very sweet."

"Lyna Mystica" also stars Max Anthony Fernandez and Mark Herras and premieres Nov. 17, after "24 Oras."

E-mail: mcruz@inquirer.com.ph

CHEER FACTOR

Pinoys win in Brussels fest

TWO FILIPINOS WON AT THE 25TH BRUSSELS FESTIVAL OF Independent Film held in Belgium recently.

Nic Serra was named Best Actor for Mayo 3. He lost Reyes' "Forever" and Tara Illenberger's "Bratsy," which was also named Best Adult Film.

The news was relayed to buzzoo Entertainment by the Ian Reyes who attended the festival with Serra from Nov. 6 to 9.

"Bratsy" tells the story of Morgan Isis recruited into the illegal logging trade. Reyes/Sun./Argo Ar

Two more movies get 'A'

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

TWO CINEMALAYA FINALists, "Concerto" and "100," received an 'A' from the Cinema Evaluation Board (CEB), entitling both films to 100 percent rebate on amusement taxes.

The two films made by debuting directors couldn't be more different but were both warmly received by the board, says Jose Jacobo of the CEB, which is under the Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP).

"For the first time, the board members applauded, at the end of the screening of 'Concerto.' We laughed and cried while watching '100,'" he recounts.

Del Morales' "Concerto" is a period drama that chronicles a family's attempts to survive the Japanese Occupation in the 1940s.

Chris Martinez's "100" is a future-noire film that recounts a dying woman's last few days.

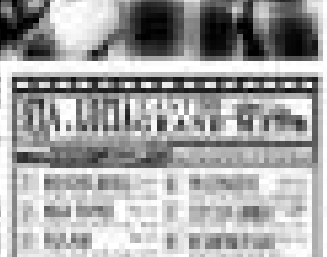
The board commends "100" for its "sensitive, imaginative and admirably disciplined direction."

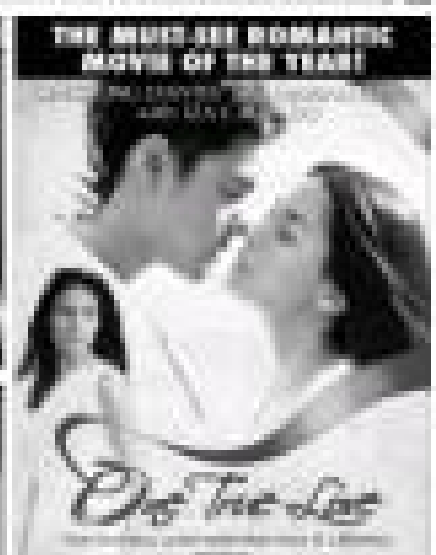
According to the board, "100" is "well-written, unfolding important themes without being melodramatic."

Digna Santiago of the CEB confirms that "100" was given a unanimous 'A'—all 15 members agreed to give it 100 percent tax rebate.

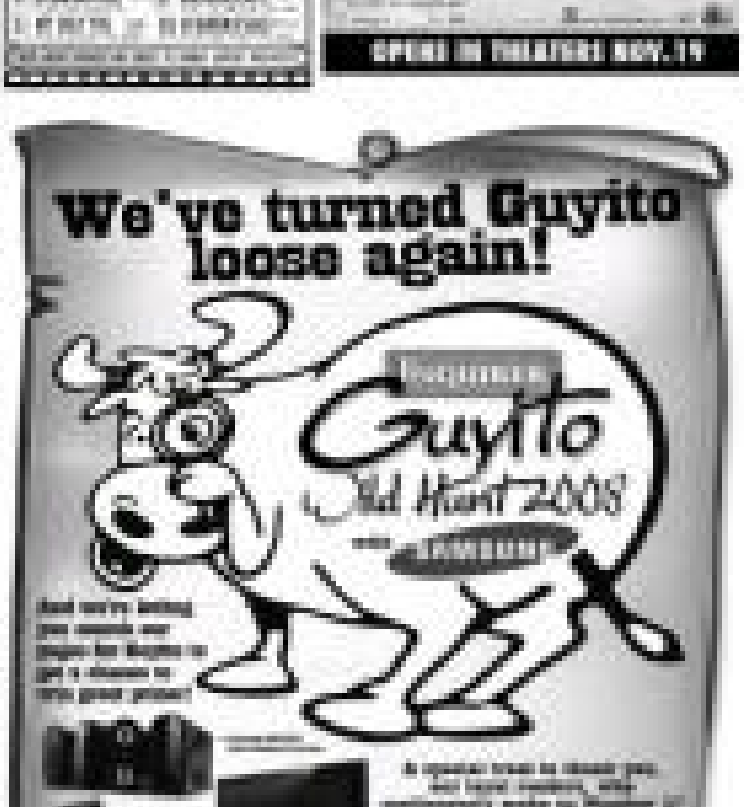
"It's great validation," Martinez says. "It means a lot considering the distribution problems we're encountering now."

Incredible shrinking star makes 'Porno' movie





A joyride with Taken by Cars



SHOW TIME

Wolfgang in one-night gig

AFTER DISBANDING IN 2002, wood City Central Plaza, Libis, and reuniting briefly in 2007, Quezon City. The show, dubbed, Wolfgang gets back into the scene "The Black Christmas Project," with a concert on Dec. 30 at Eurofeatured Wolfgang's original lineup: Jhett Brett Aithell, Manuel Legarda and Mike Limpoc, with Thanee Aquino sitting in on drums. Call 911-5555 or log on to ticketnet.com.ph.

Gene Loves Jezebel in RP

The Goth-rock group Gene Loves Jezebel featuring founding members Michael Aston and Jaime Gregg (Sweetwater) Hotel, Clark, Pampanga), Innocence (Alchemy, Silver City, Pasig), and on Nov. 17 (Hard Rock Cafe, Glorietta, Makati). The group became cult favorites in the 1980s with the songs "Desire (Come and Get It)," "Shrinkwrap," "Jealous," "Sweetly Killer Hearts," "Kiss of Life," "Motion of Love," "Jealousy," among others. Aitchelish opens the Sweetwater and Alchemy shows, while Dread Pop closes Innocence's the Hard Rock Cafe gig. Call 911-5555.

Rihanna-Chris Brown at Fort Bonifacio

Rihanna and Chris Brown will perform together at the Fort Bonifacio Open Field, Taguig on Nov. 16. Both are R&B superstars with a worldwide following. Rihanna is the first to make solid from Barbados to have

CHRIS Brown

RIHANNA

won a Grammy Award with the song "Umbrella." She has sold over 11 million albums to date. The 19-year-old Brown is not just a singer-songwriter, but a dancer, music video director and actor as well. He has been compared to Usher and Michael Jackson, who he acknowledges as huge influences in his music. Brown has recorded two albums, both of them multiplatinum sellers. Call 911-5555.

Kimball's concert series

Tim Lind singer Bobby Kimball's Philippine concert series resumes tonight at the CAP Auditorium, Tarlac City, tomorrow, St. Mary's Gym, Tagaytay City, Dasmariñas, Nov. 16, Legaspi Oyala, Oriental Studio City, Nov. 18, La Salle Auditorium, Bacolod City, Nov. 19, Lanzadera Convention, Cagayan de Oro City, and Nov. 20 Mabu Ballroom, Hyatt Hotel and Casino Manila. Call 911-5555.

MLTR at the Big Dome

The Swedish pop-rock band Michael Learns To Rock performs on Nov. 23 at the Araneta Coliseum. Its heyday in the '90s gave the band the hits "The Actor," "Sleeping Child," "25 Minutes," "Out of the Blue," and "Nothing to Lose." Call 911-5555.

'Streetlamp Radio'

The "Streetlamp Radio," now on its 4th run, features 20 high school and college cover competing to the finals on Nov. 23 at the Araneta Coliseum. At stake is P500,000 in cash prizes.

Tonight

- Cadiling Cruz Jr., Rizalo '83 at Medi's Bar & Bistro, Greenbelt 3, Makati. Call 757-4720 ext. 21.
- The Jedis at "The Birds, Around St. Prof. 2, Quezon City. Call 434-2307.

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